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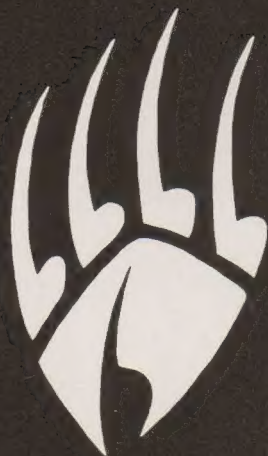
BADGER

Brain



B. J. G.

WHO ARE THESE GUYS, ANYWAY?



The Badger is **Norbert Sykes**, a Vietnam veteran suffering from an extremely rare multiple personality disorder, which has its origins in childhood trauma. Seven great personalities in one. The personality most frequently inhabited by Norbert, indeed almost *exclusively preferred*, is the Badger, a self-styled crime fighter who rides the highways and by-ways of America, meting out bloody justice to jaywalkers, ticket scalpers, indifferent teenaged fast food clerks, in fact, *any damn body he feels like because he's CRAZY!*

Badger is an expert at hand-to-hand combat. He began his training in Shorin-ryu but has since gone on to master dozens of obscure, esoteric, arcane, not to mention abstruse martial arts, the likes of which you seldom hear about.

He can also talk to the animals — just like Dr. Doolittle, or Lorne Greene. Only Badger gets better results than Lorne Greene.

Badger lives with **Ham the Weather Wizard** in a castle south of Barneveld, Wisconsin. Ham and Badger met while both were inmates at a state mental hospital. Through cunning and chicanery, Ham has amassed a considerable fortune.

Don't miss the **Badger/Nexus** six-issue crossover mini-epic continuing this month in **Nexus #46!**

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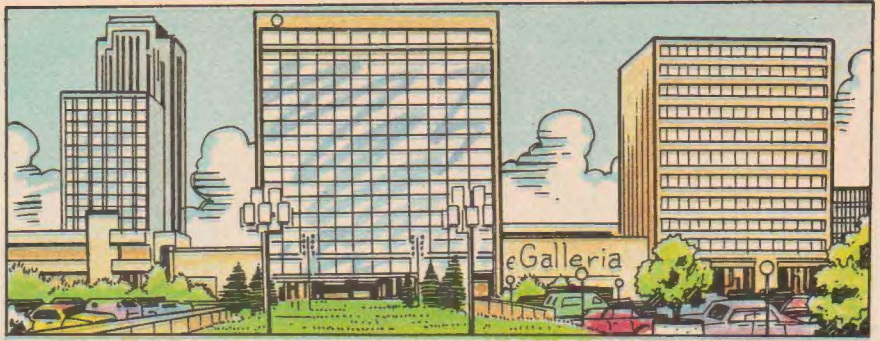
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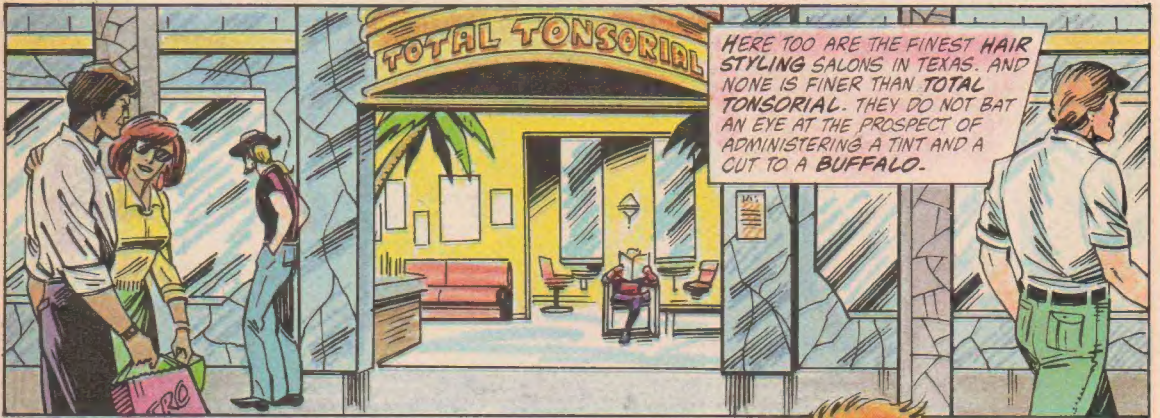
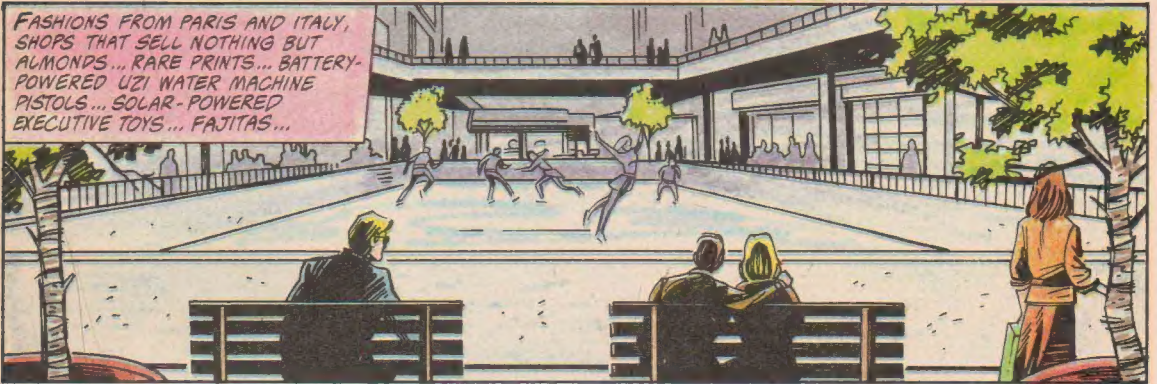
A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION



THE GALLERIA IN HOUSTON. THE TAJ MAHAL OF MALLS.



FASHIONS FROM PARIS AND ITALY, SHOPS THAT SELL NOTHING BUT ALMONDS... RARE PRINTS... BATTERY-POWERED UZI WATER MACHINE PISTOLS... SOLAR-POWERED EXECUTIVE TOYS... FAJITAS...

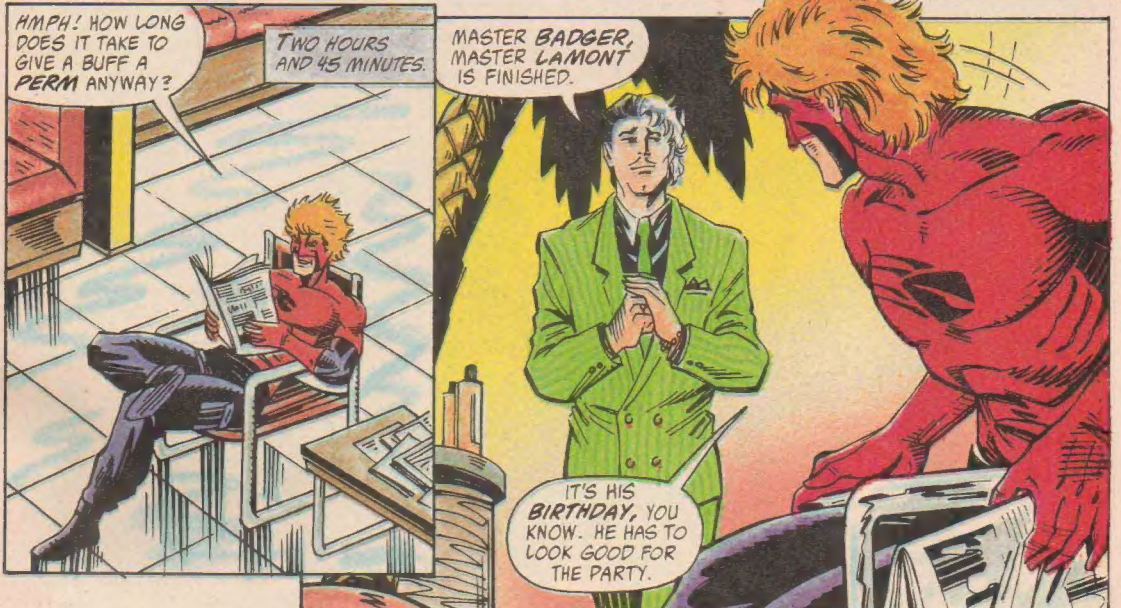


HERE TOO ARE THE FINEST HAIR STYLING SALONS IN TEXAS. AND NONE IS FINER THAN TOTAL TONSORIAL. THEY DO NOT BAT AN EYE AT THE PROSPECT OF ADMINISTERING A TINT AND A CUT TO A BUFFALO.

HMPH! HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GIVE A BUFF A PERM ANYWAY?

TWO HOURS AND 45 MINUTES.

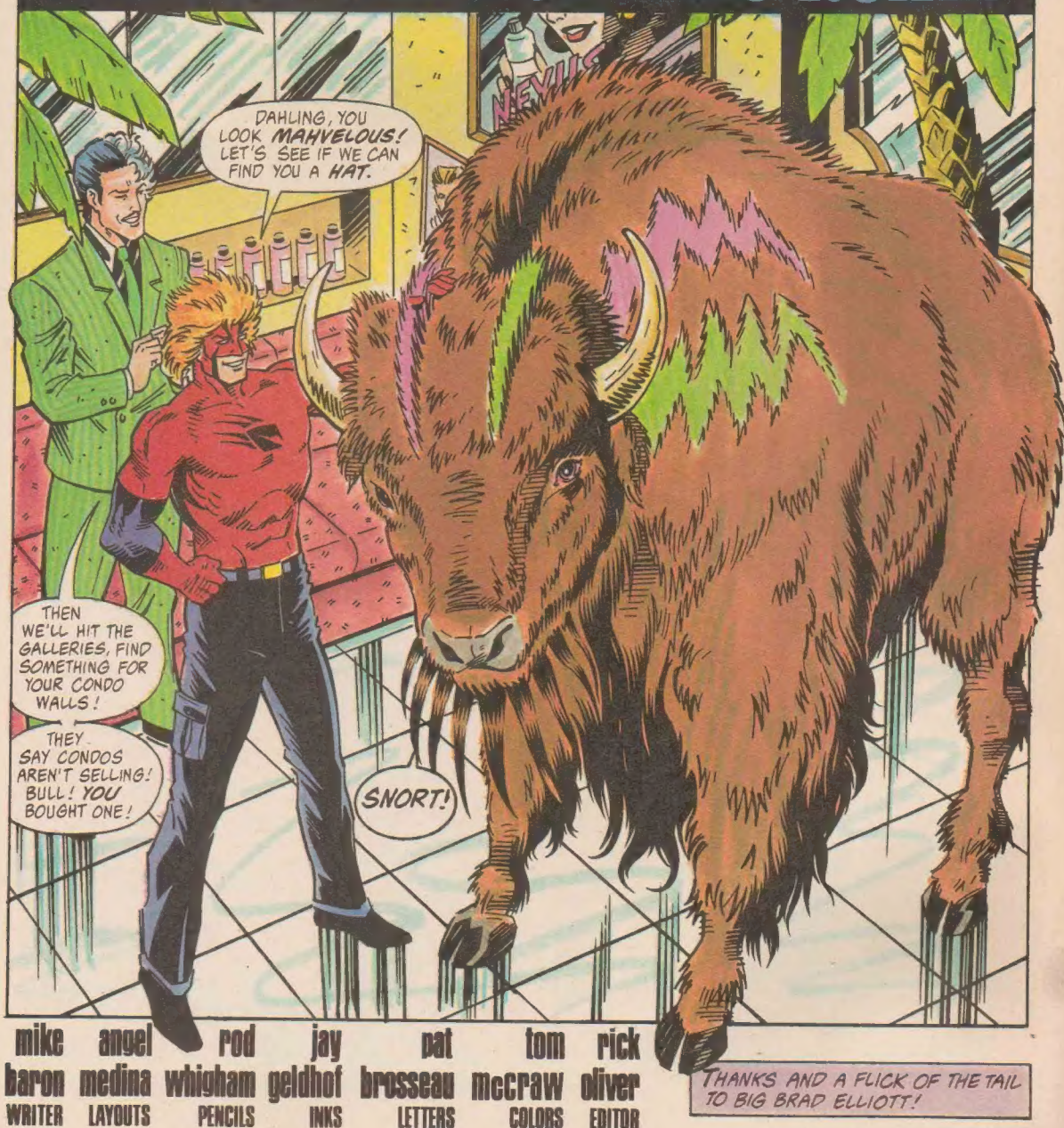
MASTER BADGER, MASTER LAMONT IS FINISHED.

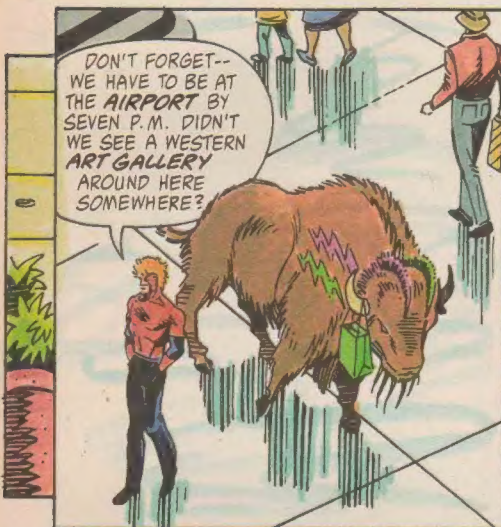
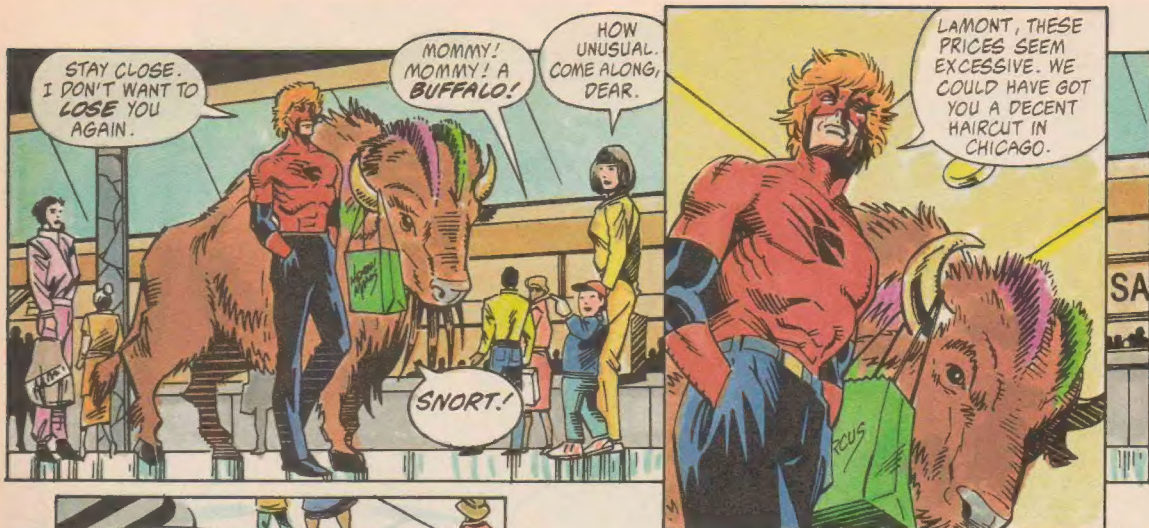


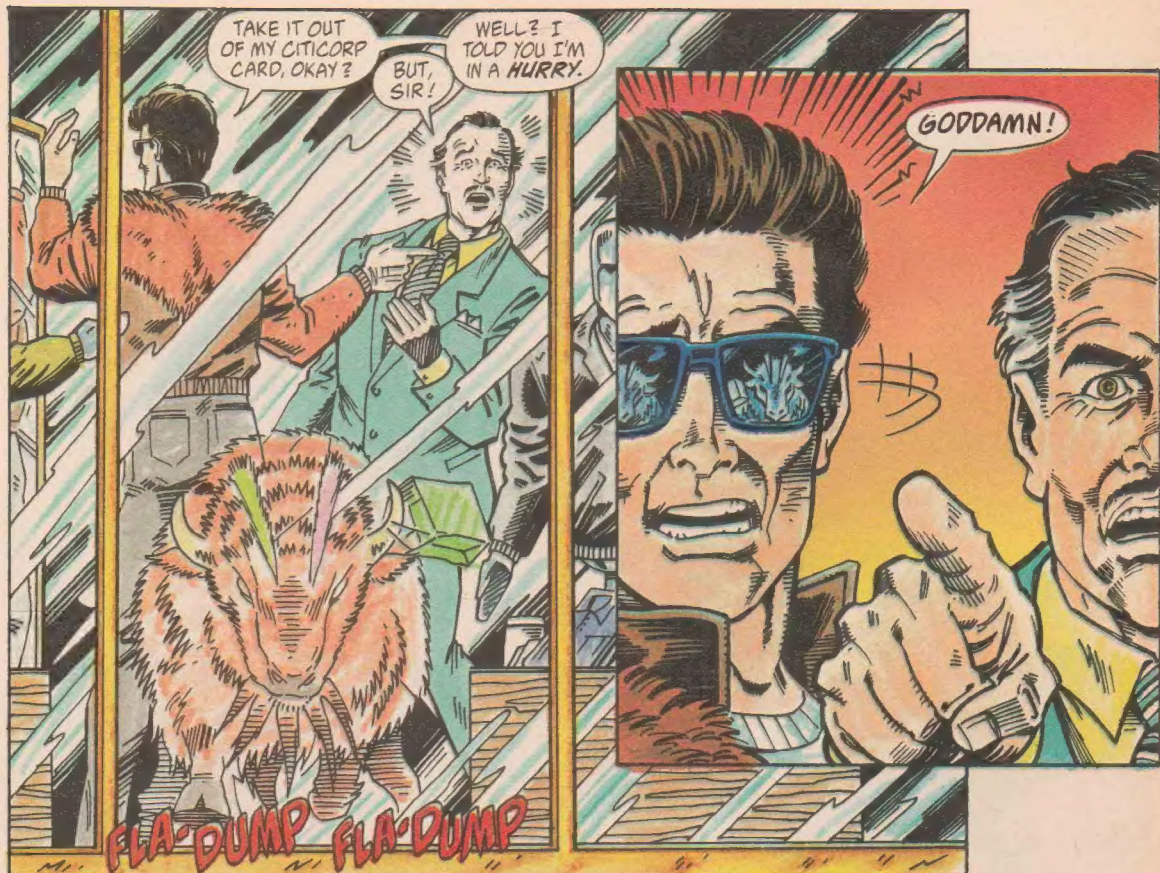
IT'S HIS BIRTHDAY, YOU KNOW. HE HAS TO LOOK GOOD FOR THE PARTY.

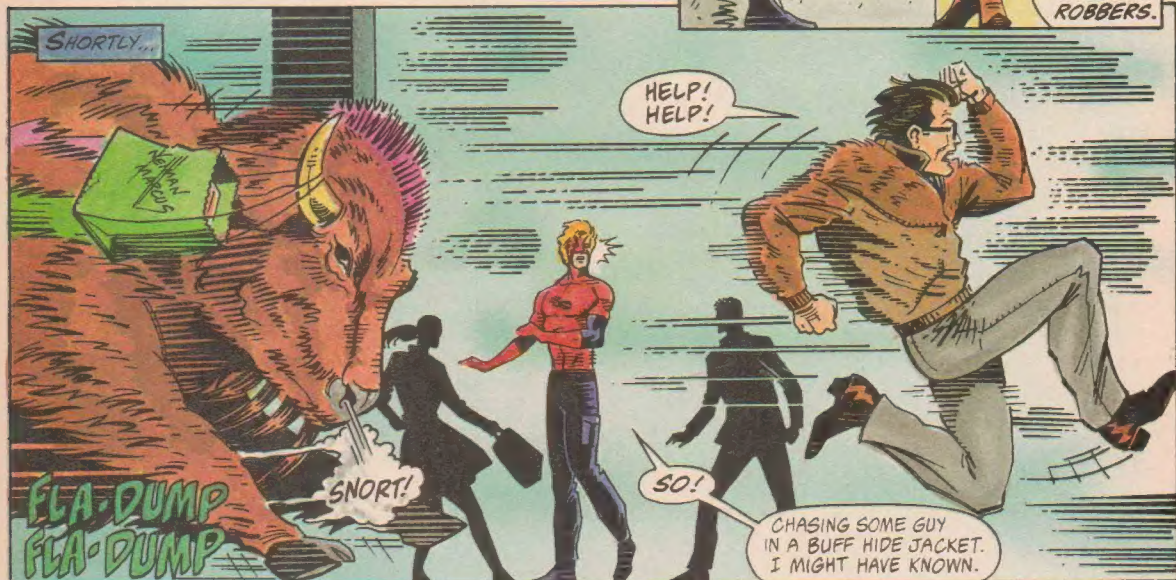


WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAM













MM-HMM... I SEE.
THANK YOU, MA'AM.
WE'LL GET RIGHT
ON IT.



BOYS, LET'S RIDE.
THERE'S A BUFFALO
LOOSE IN THE MAIN
CONCOURSE.

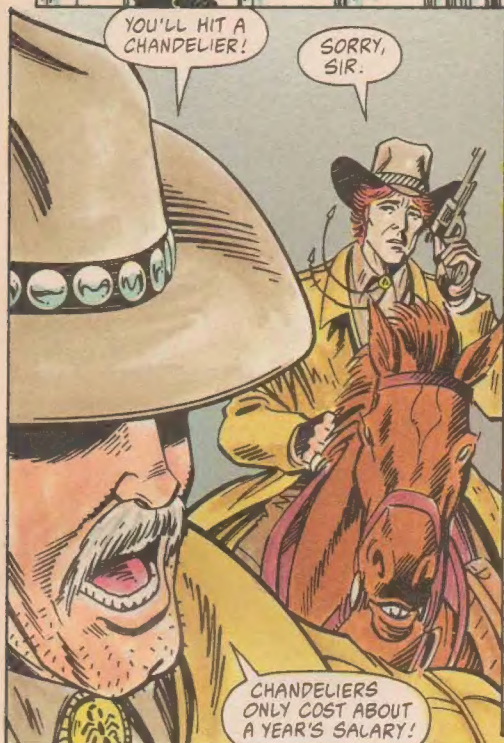
WAL, AH NEVAH!
THET GUY WAS LOOKIN'
FOR A BUFFALO! RECKON
IT'S THE SAME ONE?



BANG

YEEEEEE-HAW!

DON'T SHOOT
OFF YOUR DAG-BLAMED
GUN, YOU IDJIT!



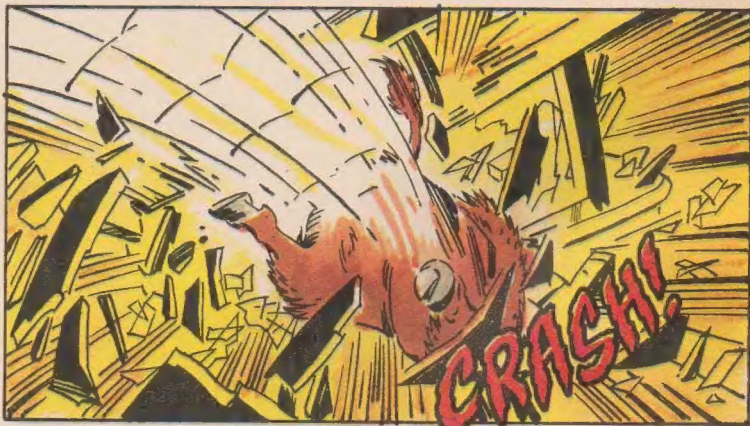
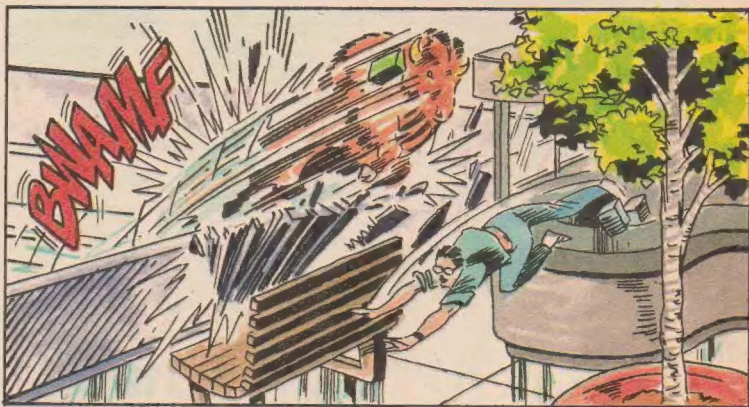
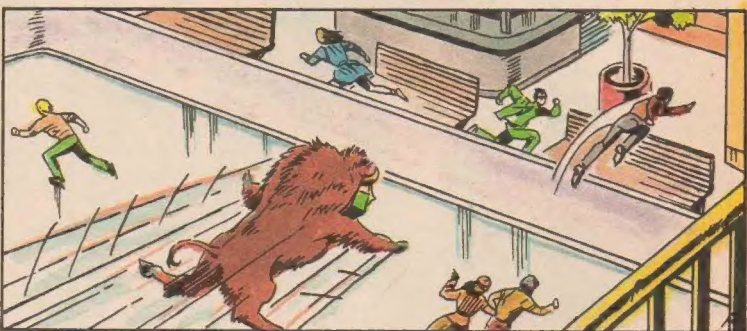
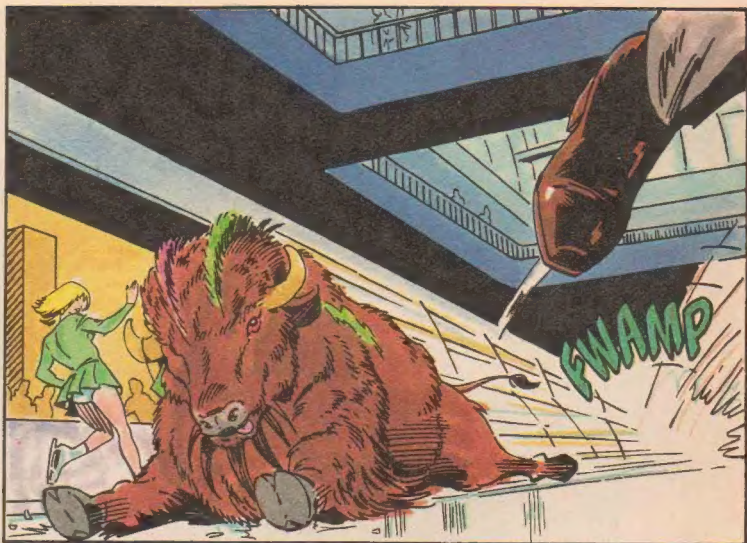
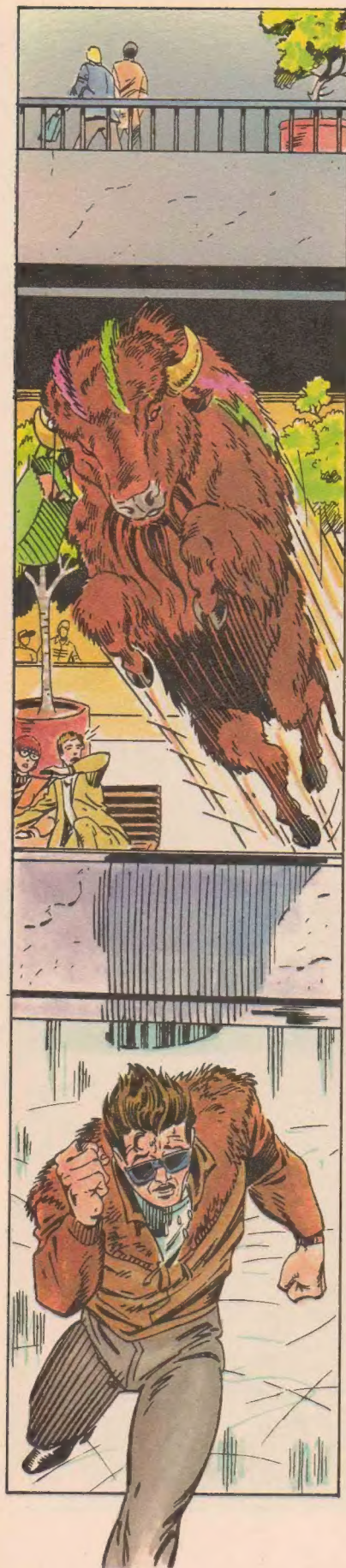
YOU'LL HIT A
CHANDELIER!

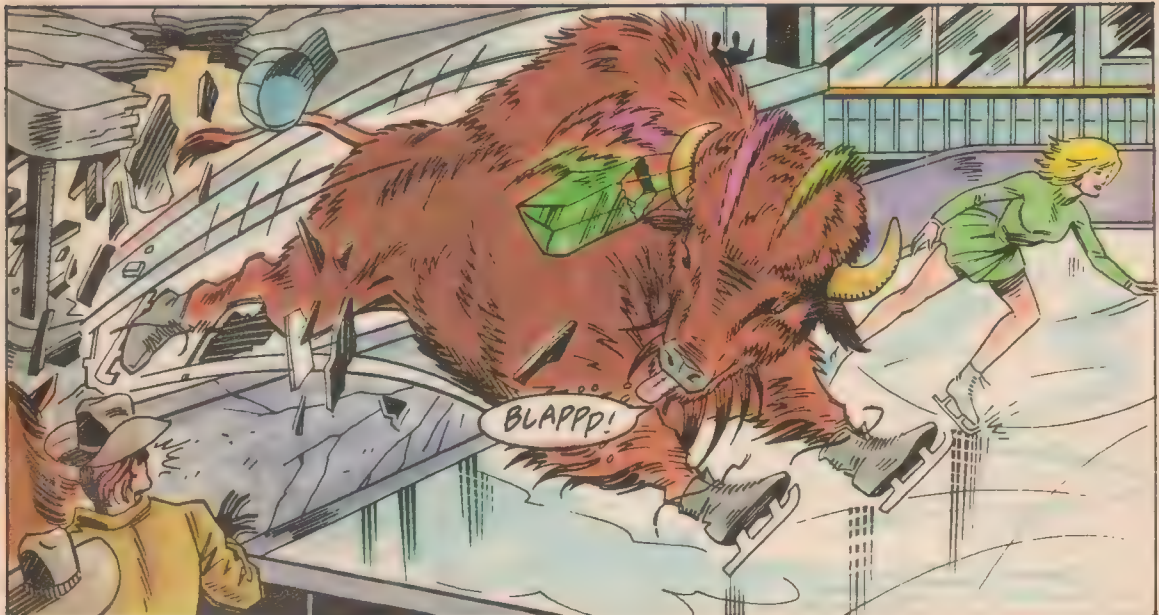
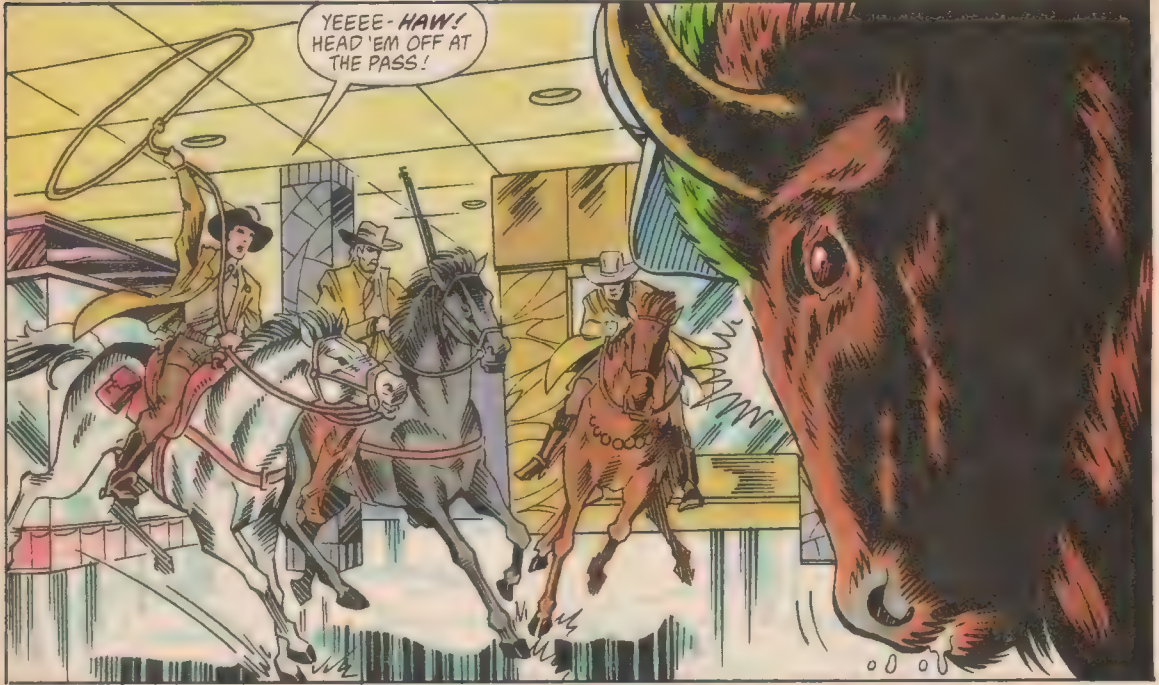
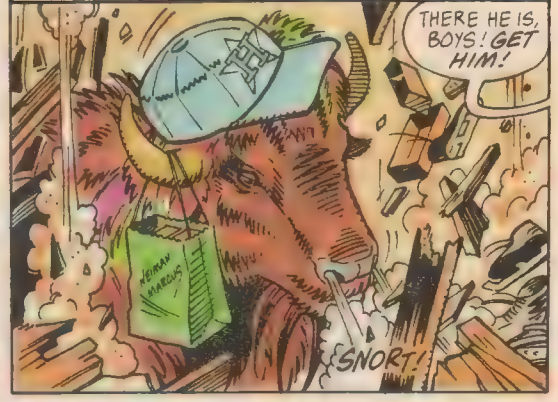
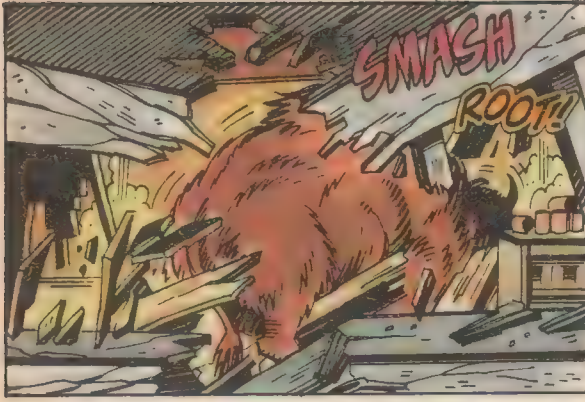
SORRY,
SIR.

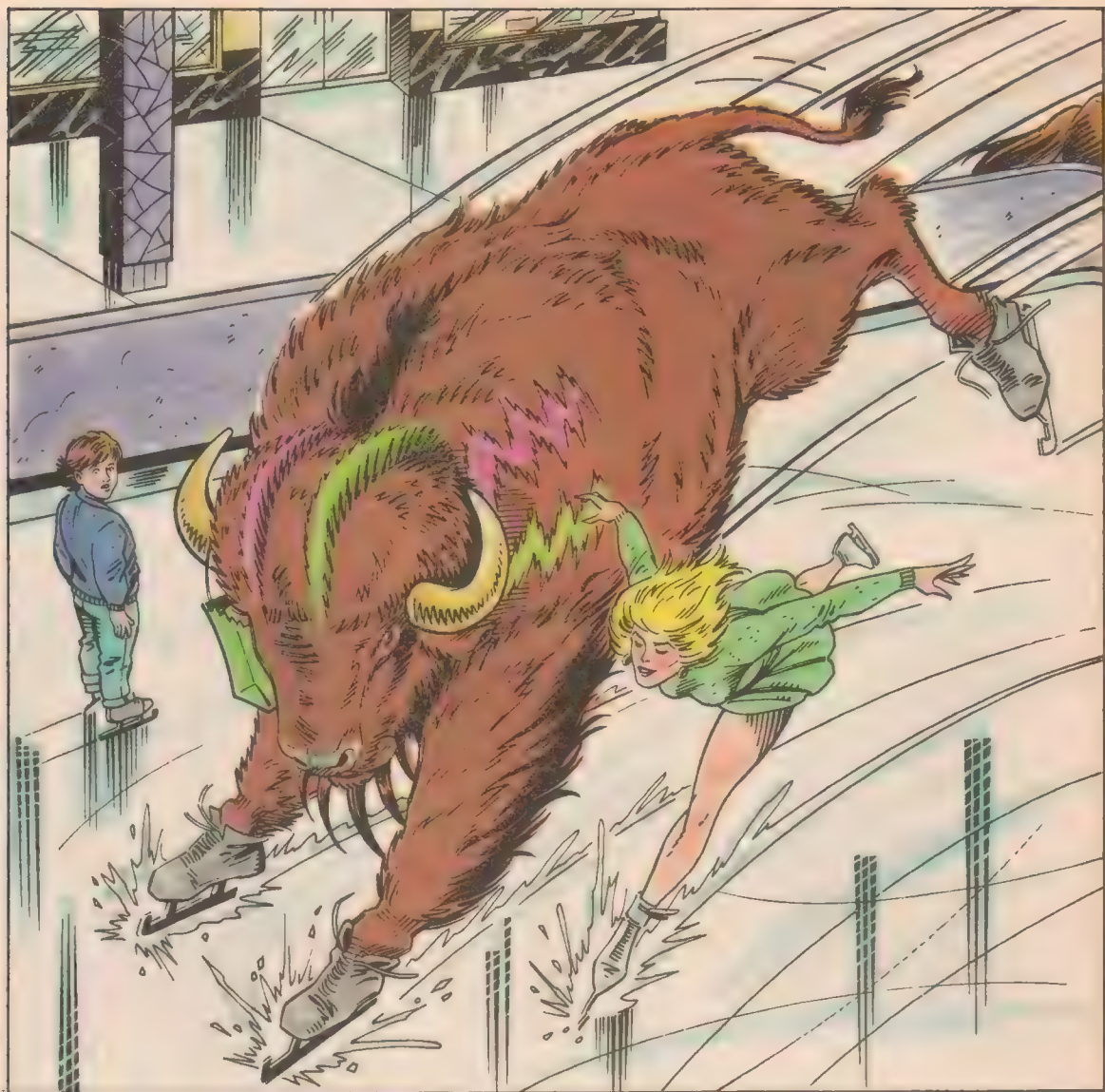
CHANDELIERS
ONLY COST ABOUT
A YEAR'S SALARY!



THE ICE--
GASP!





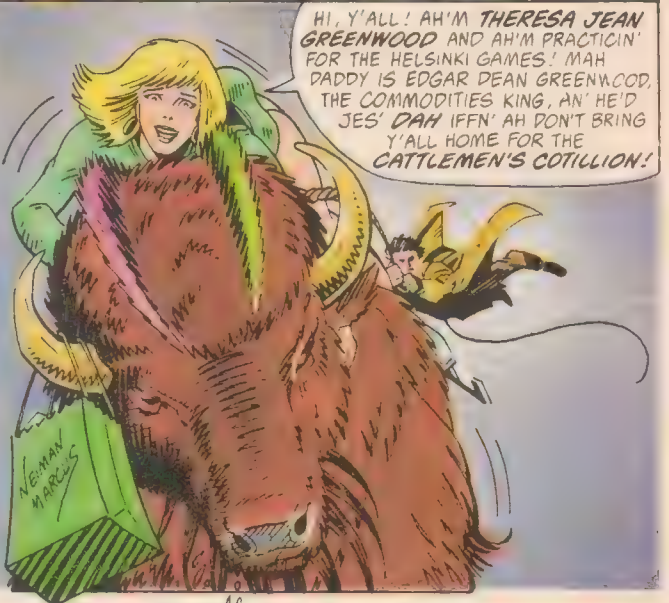
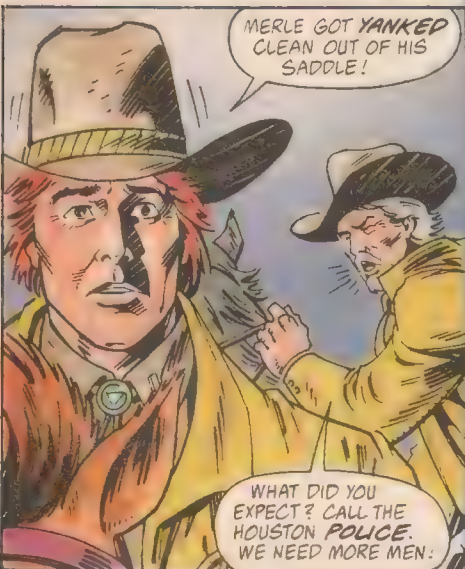
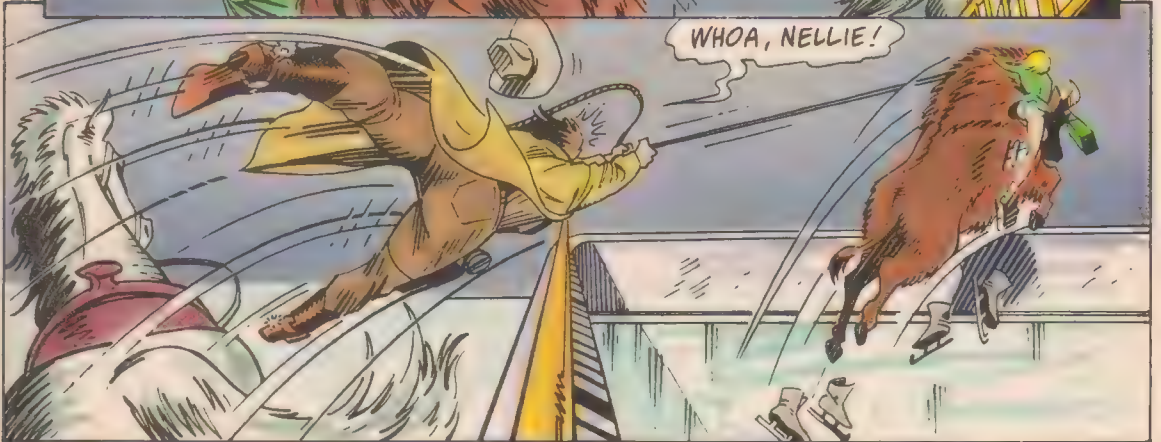
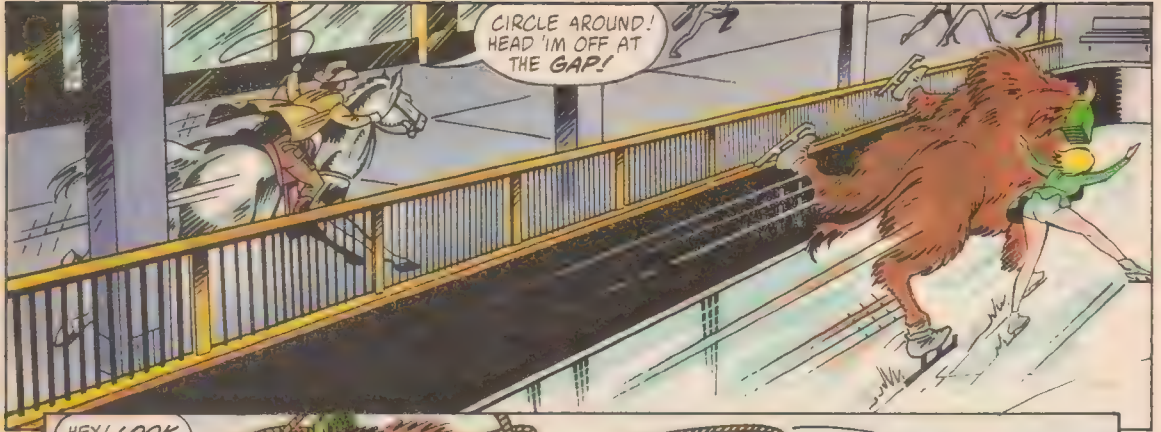


IN THE SPECTATORS' SEATS, FAMED BROADWAY PRODUCER ROLAND PENDERGAST LURCHES FROM HIS SEAT.

MAG! MY GOD, MAG! THAT BUFFALO---



THAT BUFFALO IS THE GREATEST **FIGURE SKATER** I'VE EVER SEEN! I MUST **SIGN** HIM TO **STAR** IN MY NEXT SHOW!



FIRST NOTES

ONLY 4,000 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT UNTIL CHRISTMAS 2000 A.D.!

Having spent the last week on the floor interacting meaningfully with my two daughters — aged one and zero — I got to thinking about what their lives will be like in the 21st century. After all, come the millenium they'll be in their impressionable teens, asking poignant questions like, "What's the point?" and "Who are you to tell me what to do?"

I don't imagine I'll have much time to answer them, what with working four jobs to pay the mortgage on our \$3 million, two bedroom basement apartment and

costs... \$2.44. Hmm... not too bad, I can handle that. Of course, at that rate they'll cost \$49.77 a piece in the year 2000. Hey, no problem! Compared to everything else, they'll still be cheap. But what if you wanted a lot of comics? I mean, first-run movies will be up to about \$150 or \$200 a pop; so comics might be the only entertainment they've got... that is, of course, assuming people still read them.

It cost \$208.50 a year ago to buy all the comics on the stands each month, and now it costs \$731.44, with over twice as many

"Just because it's there, doesn't mean you have to buy it."

trying to figure out ways to be declared legally dead so my life insurance can cover the first convenient \$500,000 quarterly payment of the first year's college tuition for whichever one of them can accurately answer the question, "How many fingers am I holding up behind my back?"

Best to keep your sights low when planning for the 21st century. Let's see... "economy" cars imported from Botswana will cost about \$50,000; so it's a safe bet my kids won't be driving anywhere. Computers, on the other hand, will be down to about 25¢ — but they'll be so small that the only way to operate one will be to have it surgically implanted in your brain for the modest sum of \$857,396.11.

Okay, what's that leave? I know! Comic books! I mean, how expensive could they be? Let's see... your average comic book six months ago cost \$1.76, and now it

new comics on the market. So at the turn of the century it will cost about... \$22,056 a month.

Well, so much for comic book collecting. Maybe I should try to get them interested in wilted lettuce or something — or enroll them in a Zen Buddhist school, where they'll learn to enjoy absolute nothingness. Hmm, I wonder how much nothingness will cost in the 21st century...

MORAL: Just because it's there, doesn't mean you have to buy it. I mean, it's not exactly Mt. Everest, is it?

There are a lot of good books out there; a lot of them cost a lot more than in the past; and a lot of them are worth the price. See what's out there, and buy the ones you like.

Not an unreasonable suggestion, is it?

—Rick Oliver

FIRST IN MARCH

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Badger #37: By Mike Baron, Angel Medina and Rod Whigham.

Evangeline #8: By Chuck Dixon, John Statema and Jim Bauer.

Nexus #46: By Mike Baron and Steve Rude.

Dreadstar #37: By Jim Starlin, Luke McDonnell and Val Mayerik.

Grimjack #48: By John Ostrander and Tom Mandrake.

Psychoblast #9: By Steven Grant and Robb Philpps.

Whisper #14: By Steven Grant and Spyder.

Howard Chaykin's American Flagg! #3: By Howard Chaykin and company.

Crossroads #1: Featuring Whisper and Sable. By Steven Grant and Cynthia Martin.

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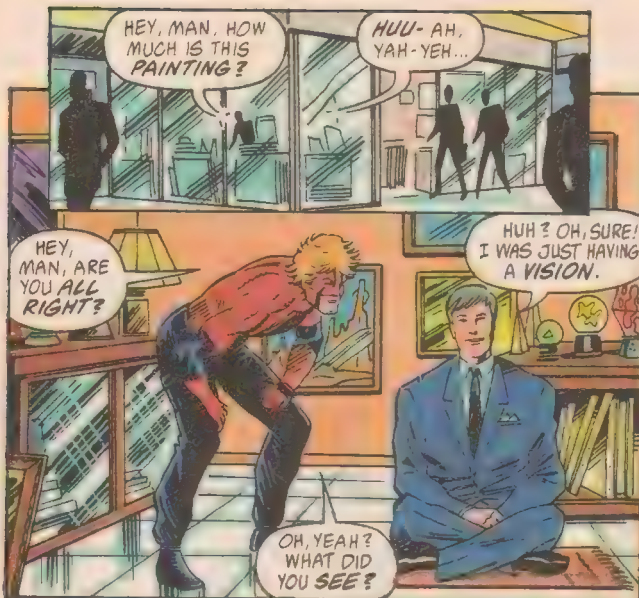
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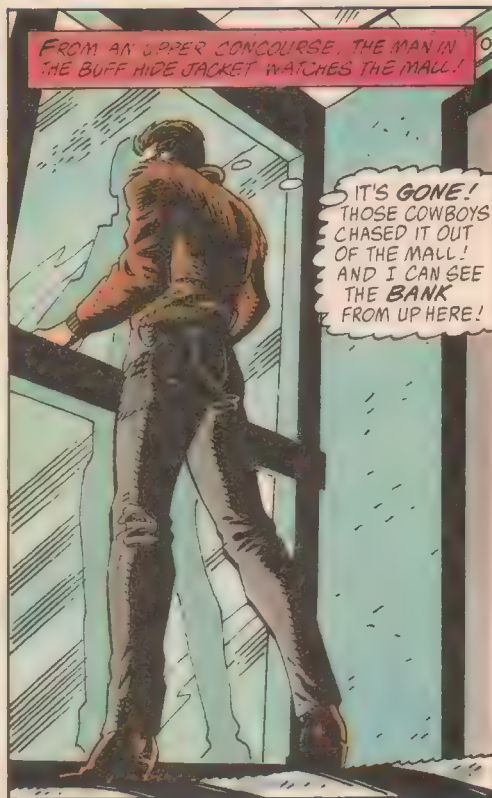
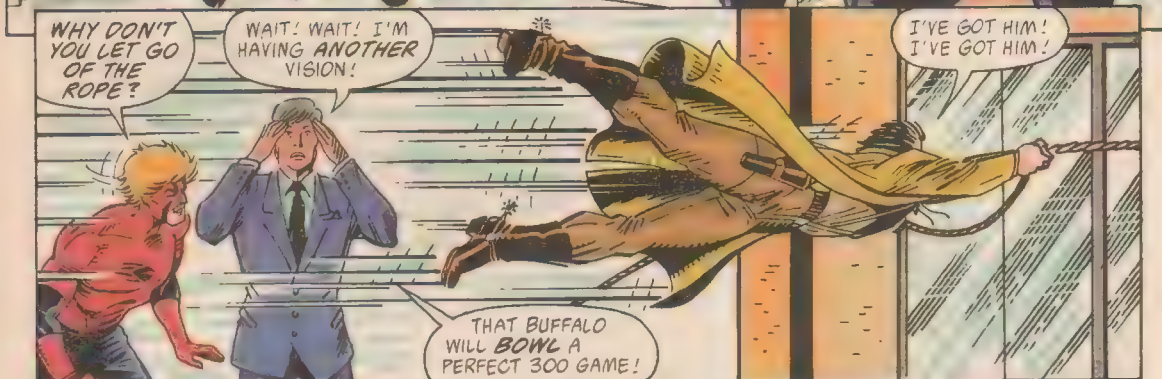
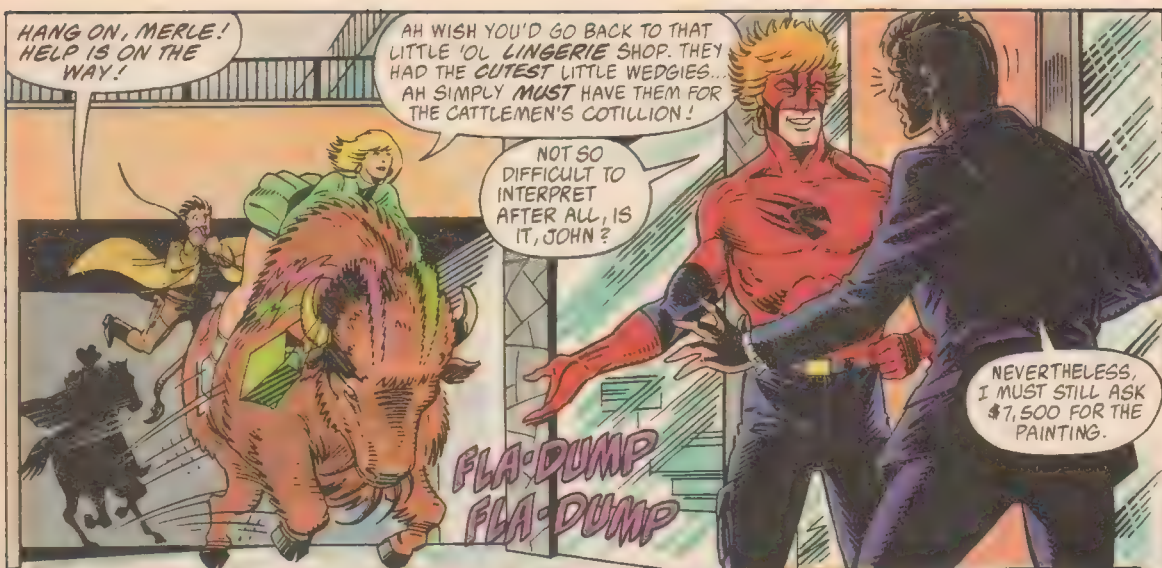
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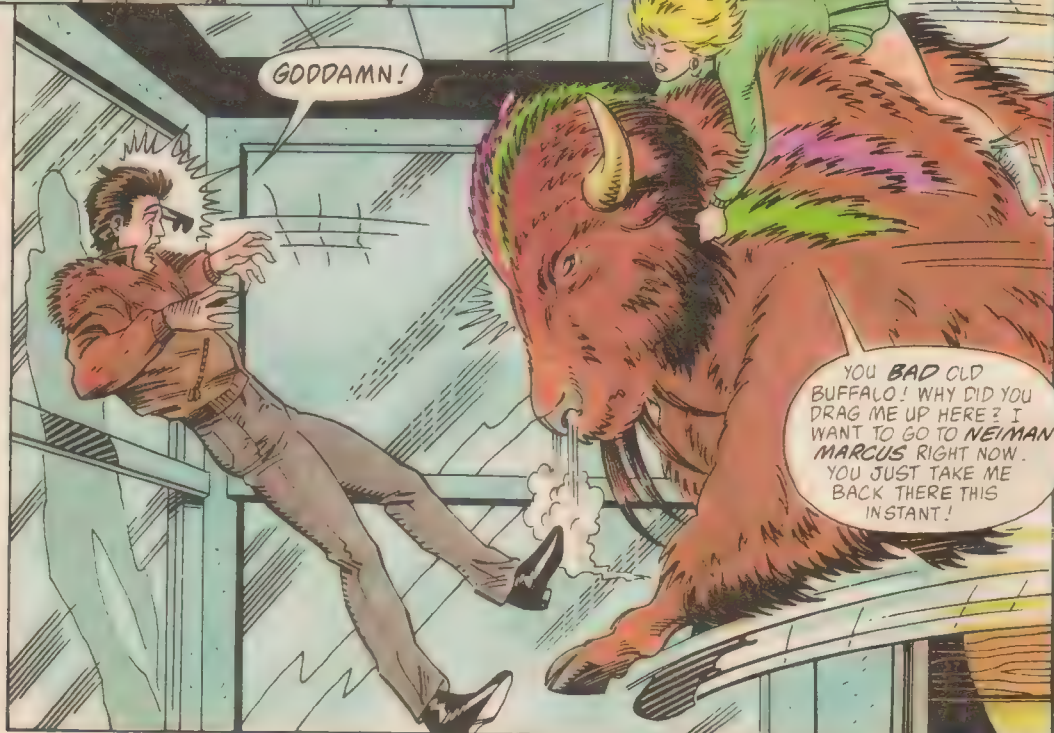
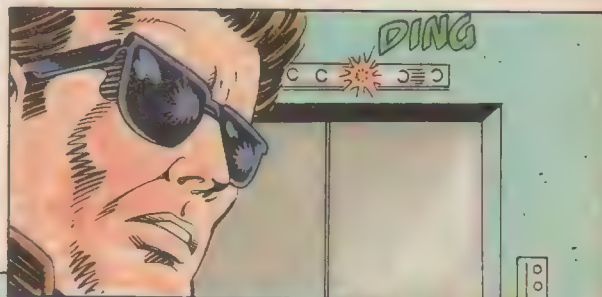
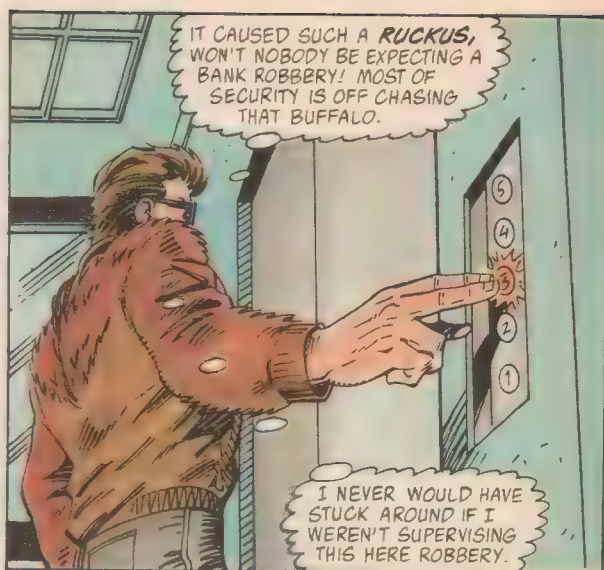
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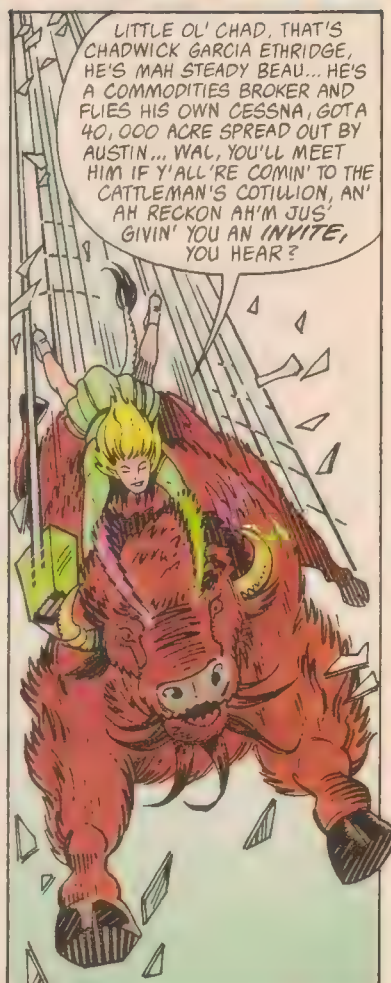
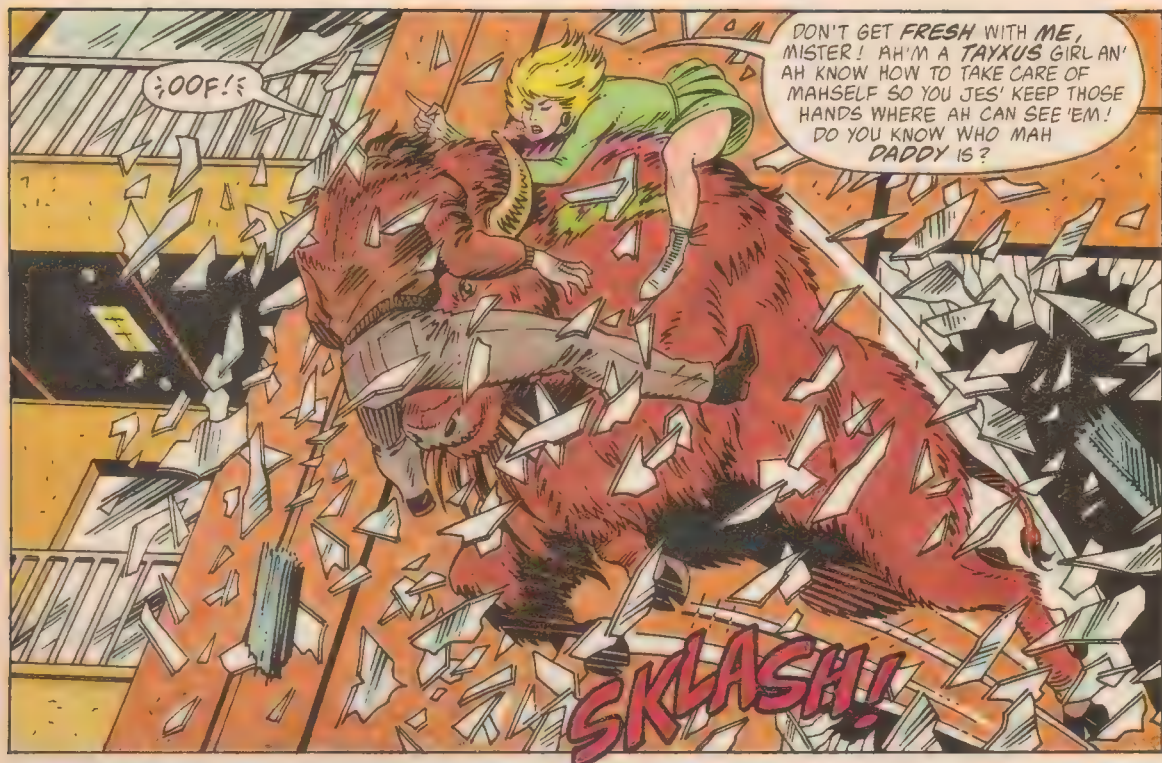
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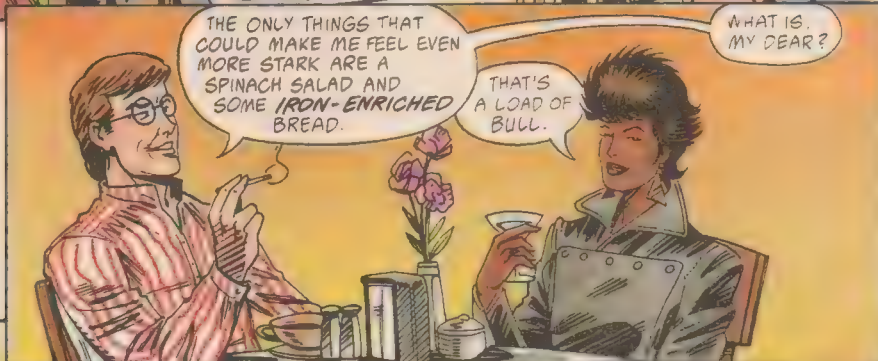
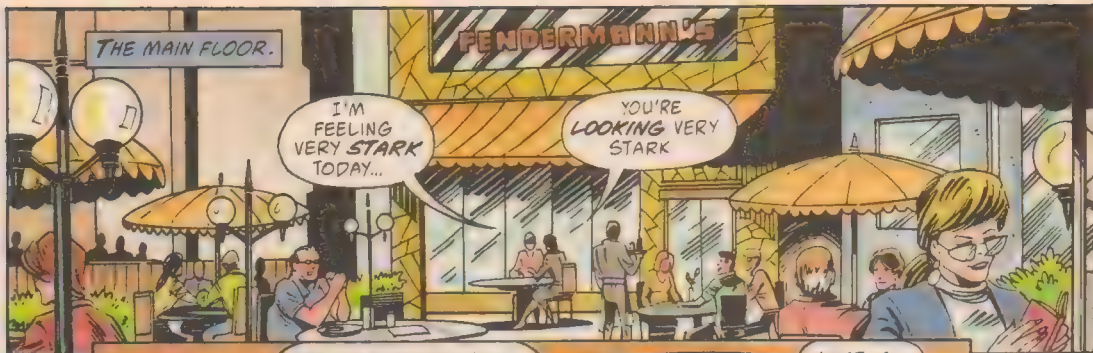
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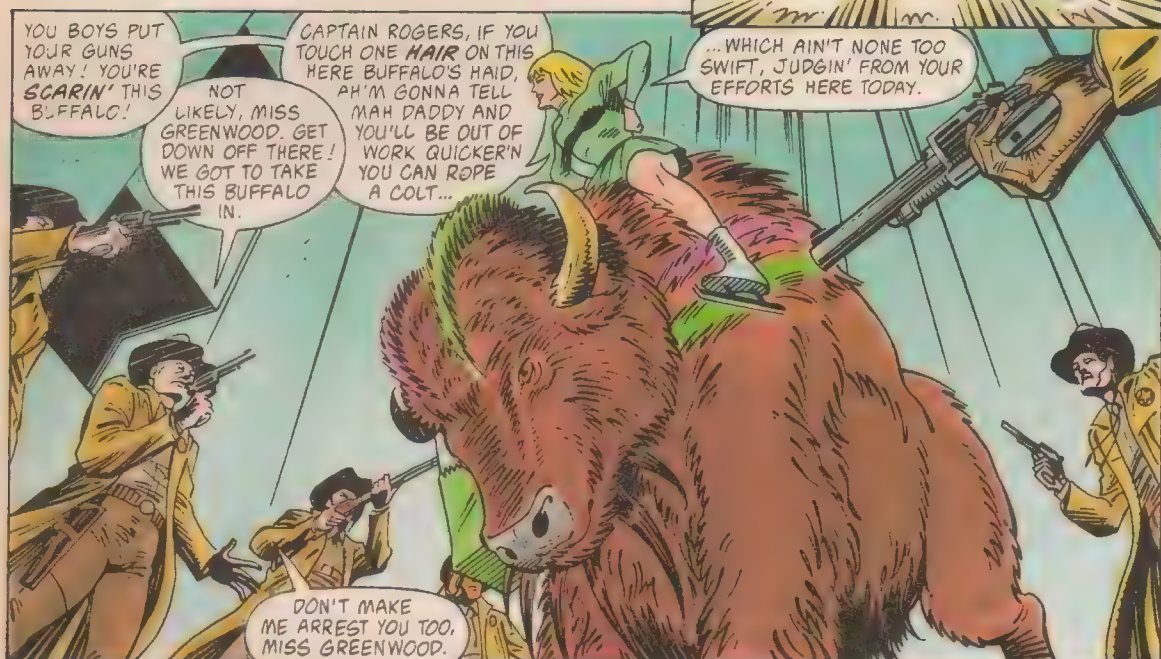












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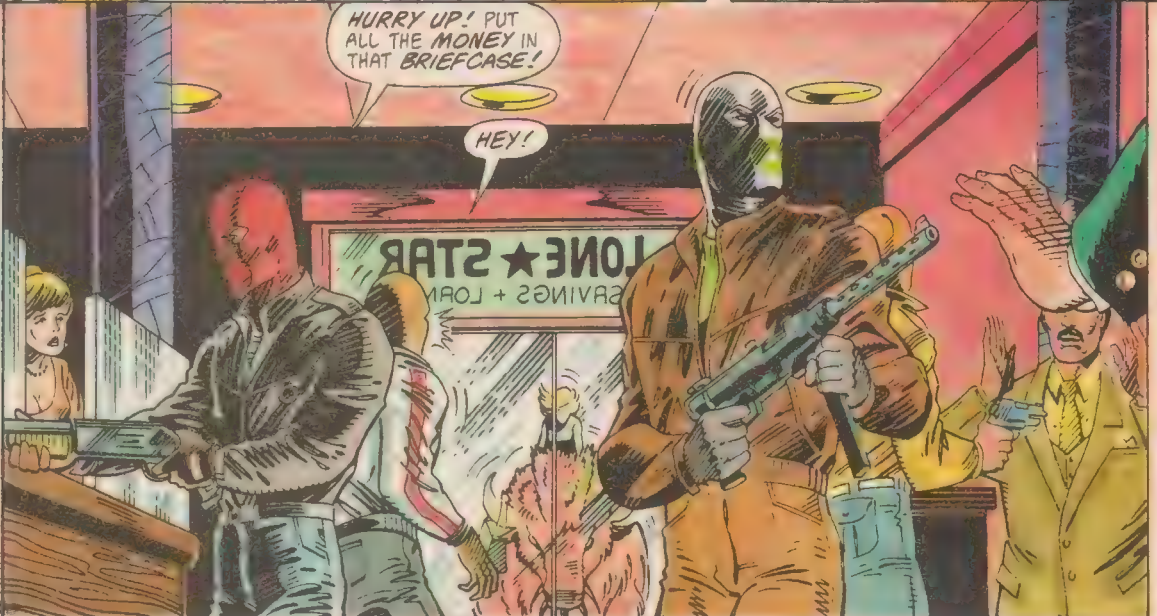
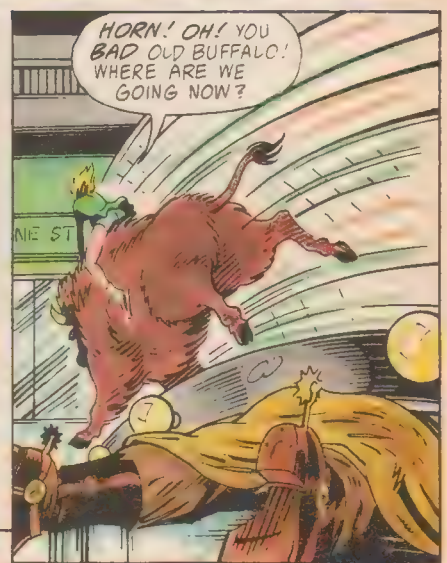
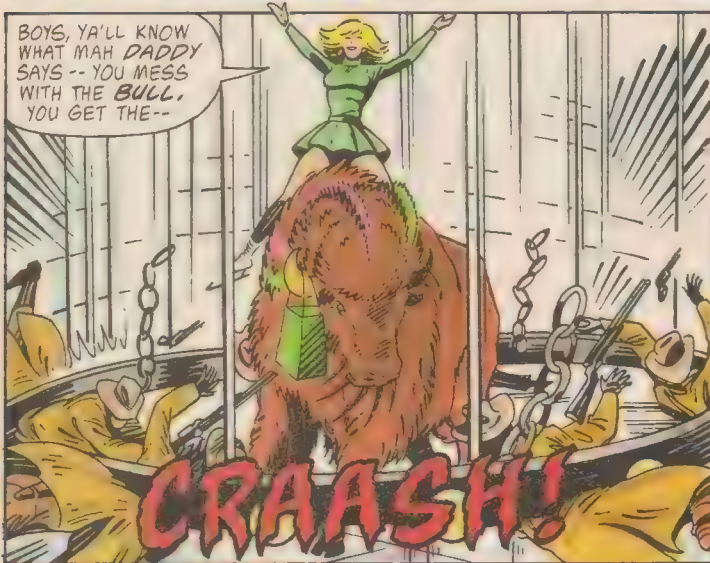
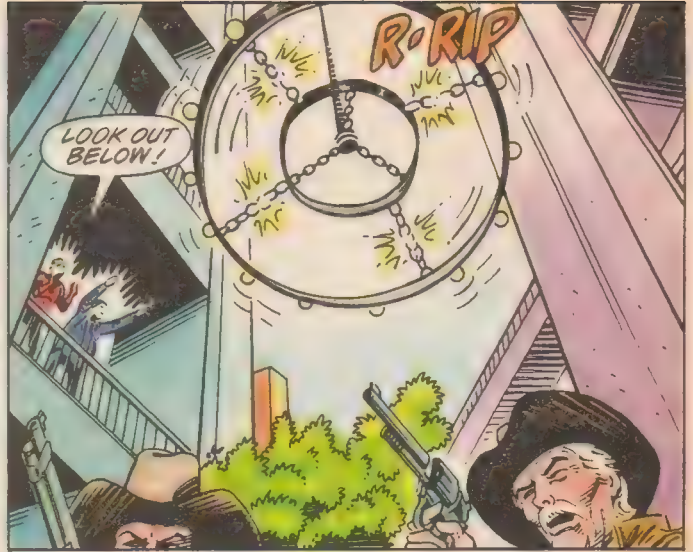
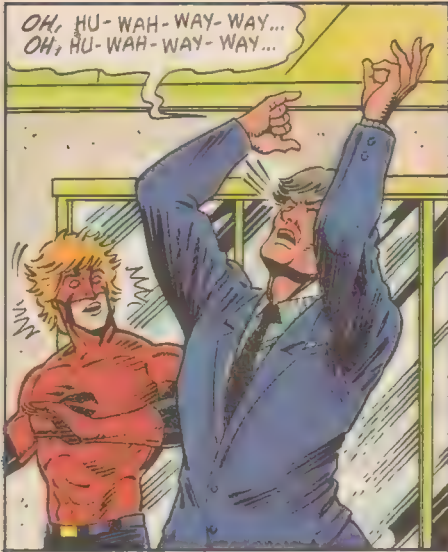
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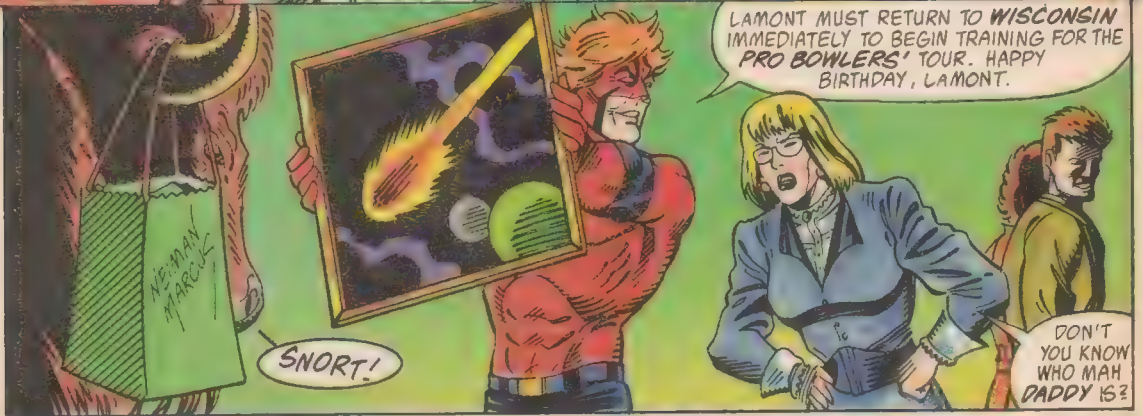
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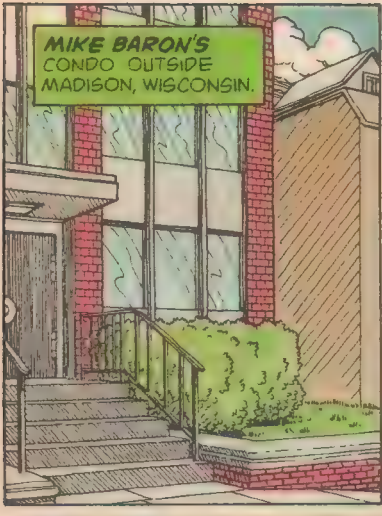
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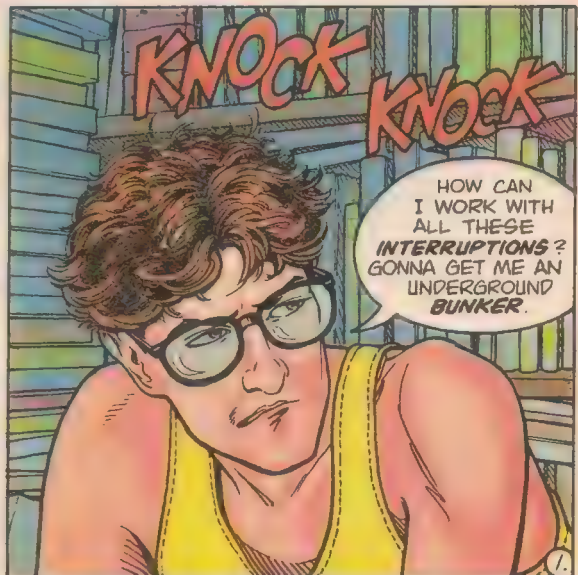
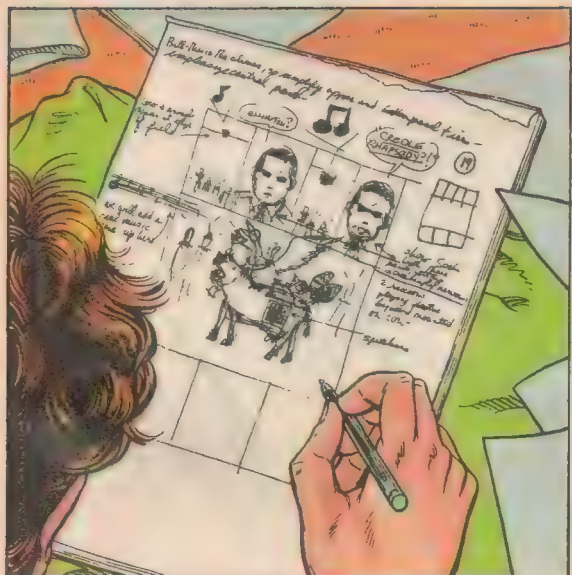
next: Buddy

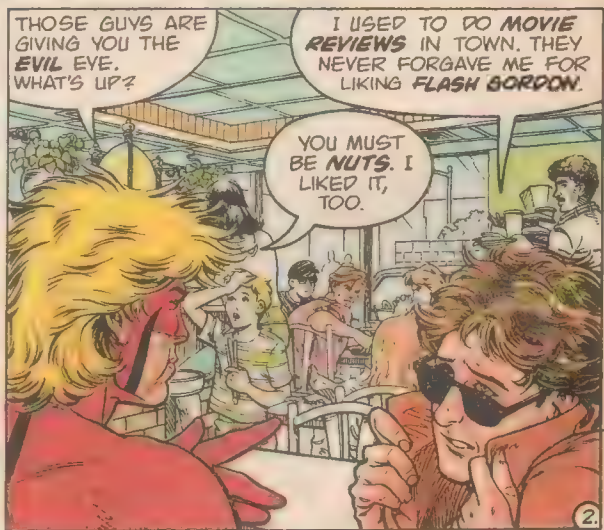
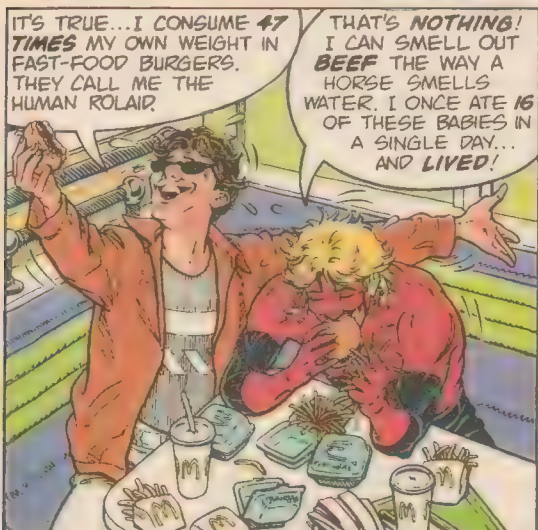
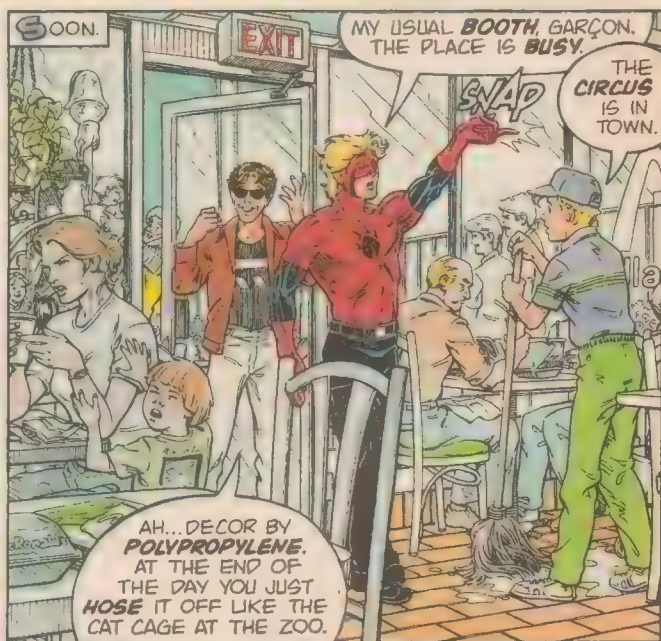
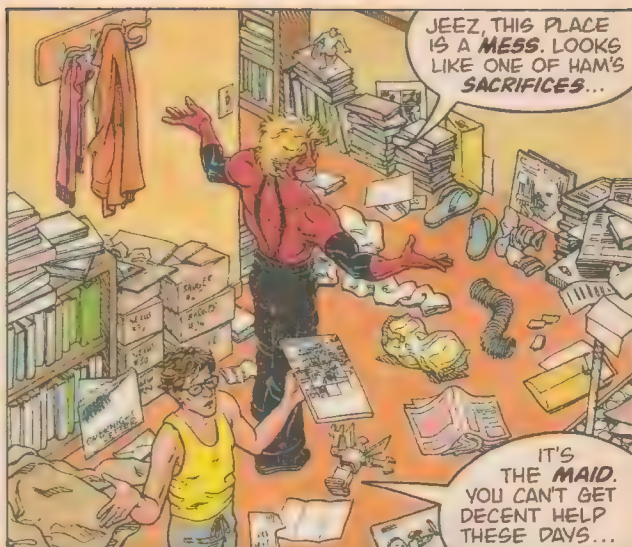
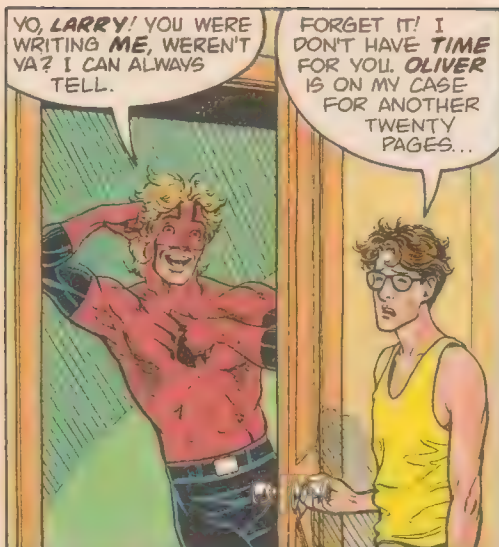


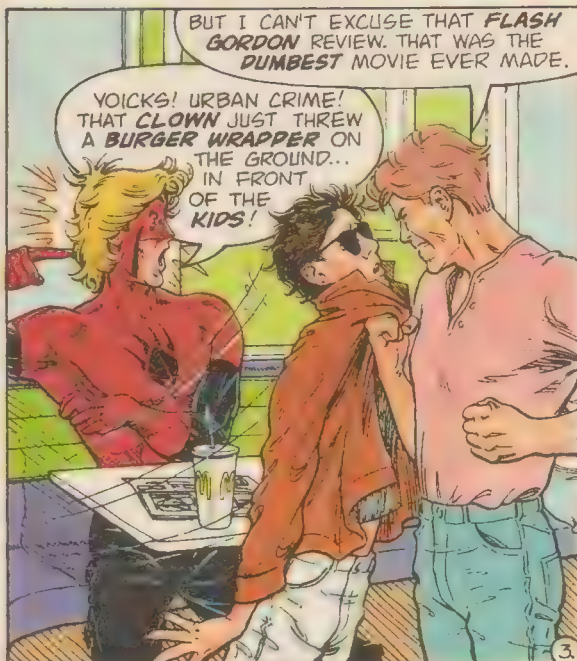
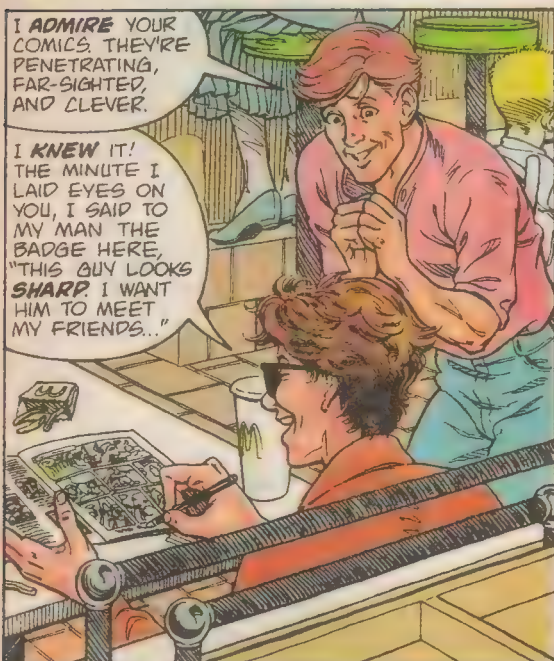
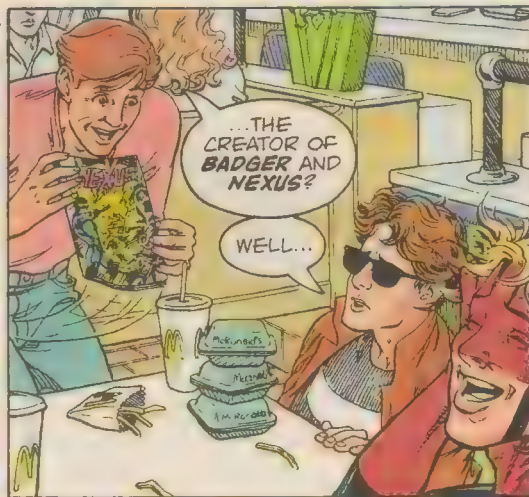
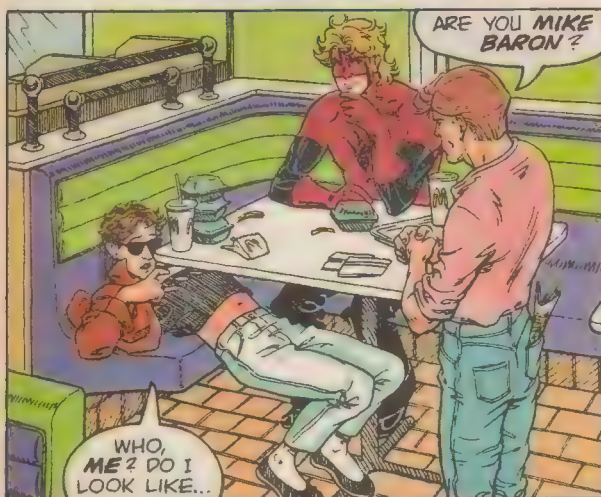
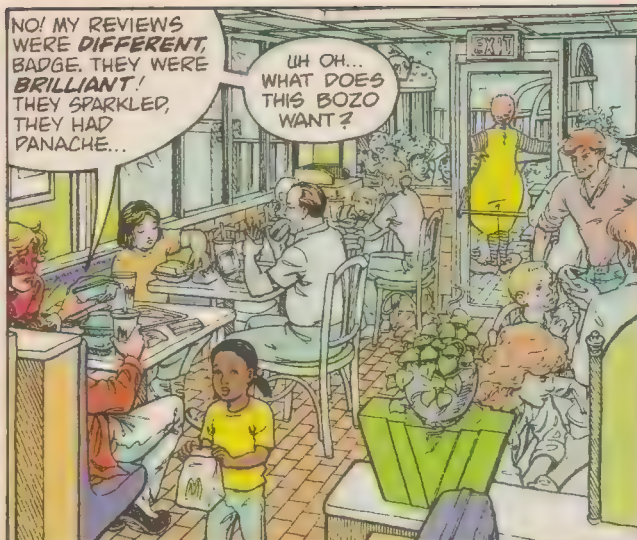
MAD TOWN

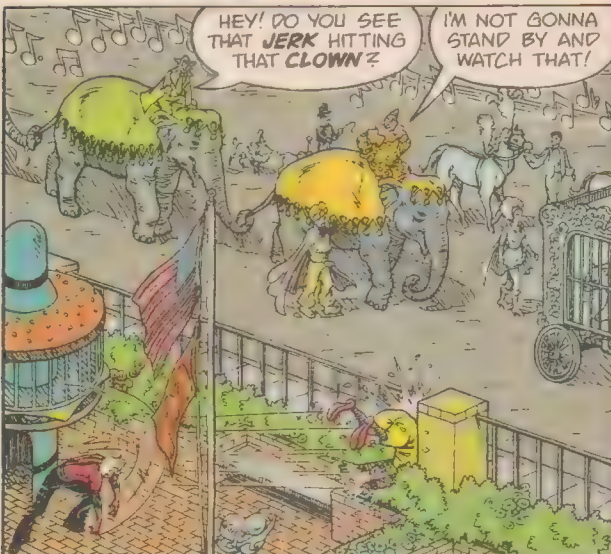
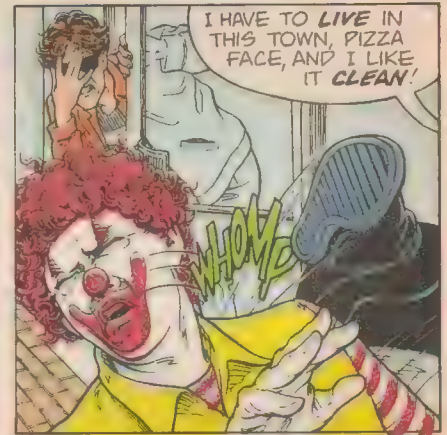
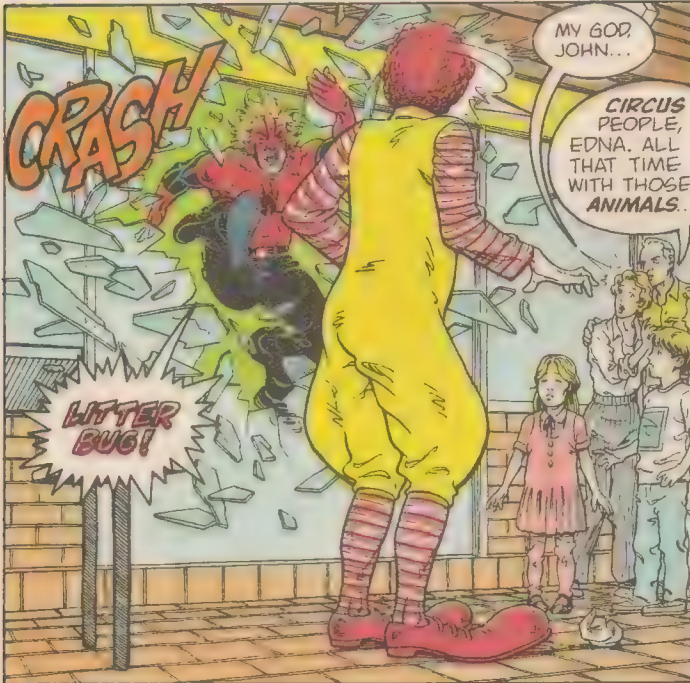
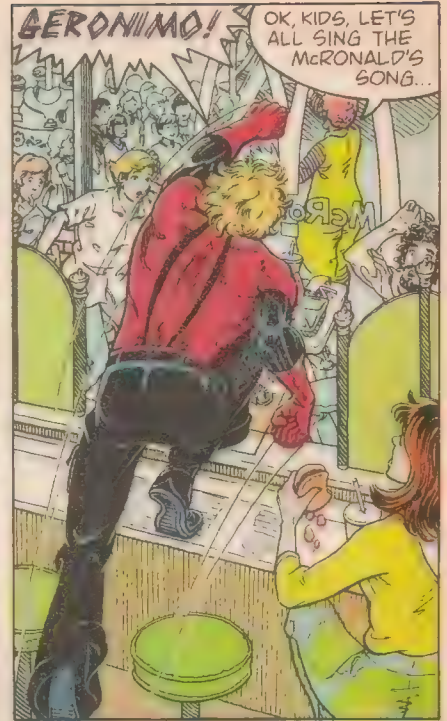
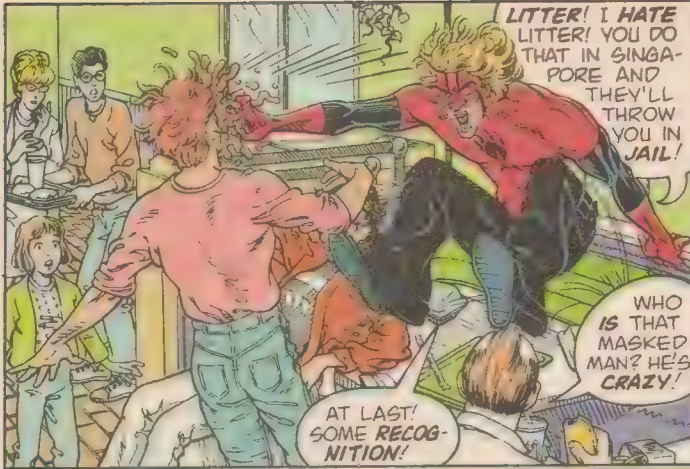


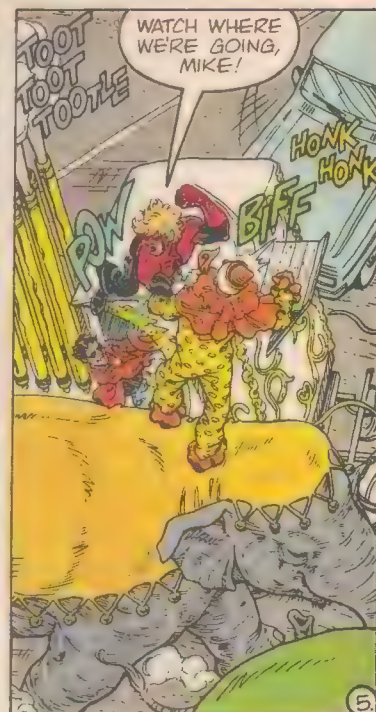
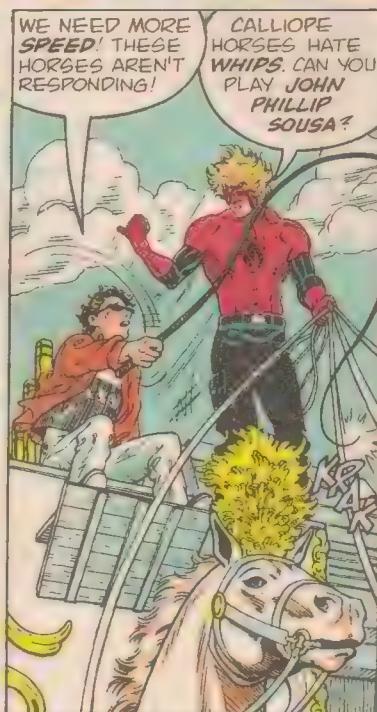
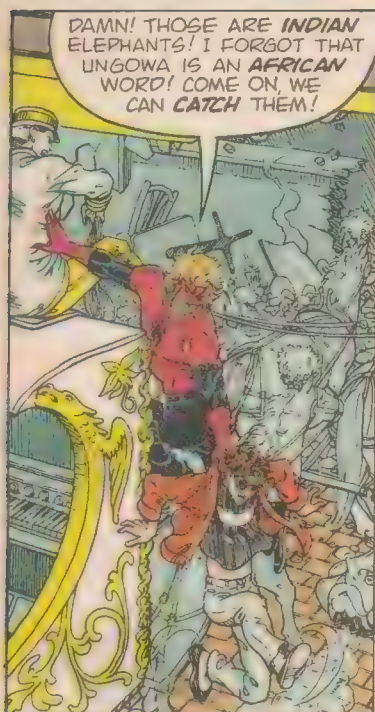
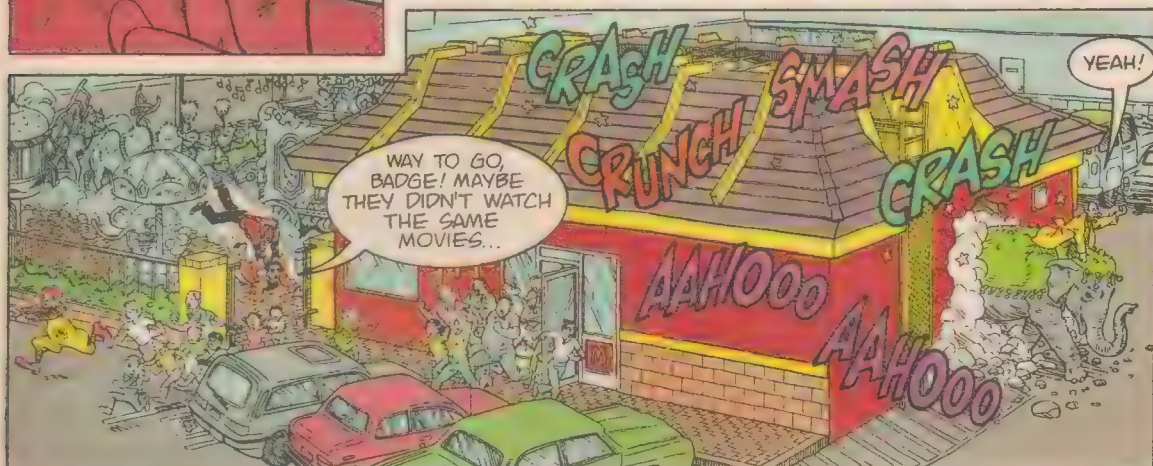
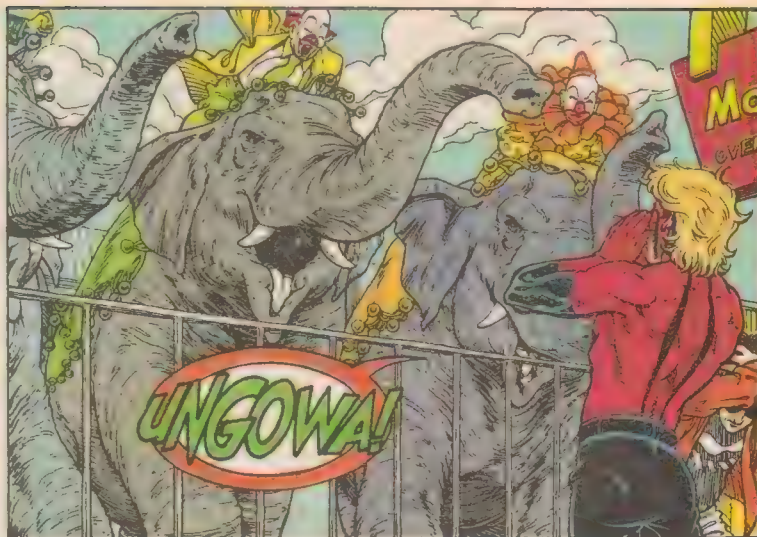
ROGER SALICK writer	ERIC SHANDWER art & letters	JULIE ANN SCZESNY colorist	RICK OLIVER editor
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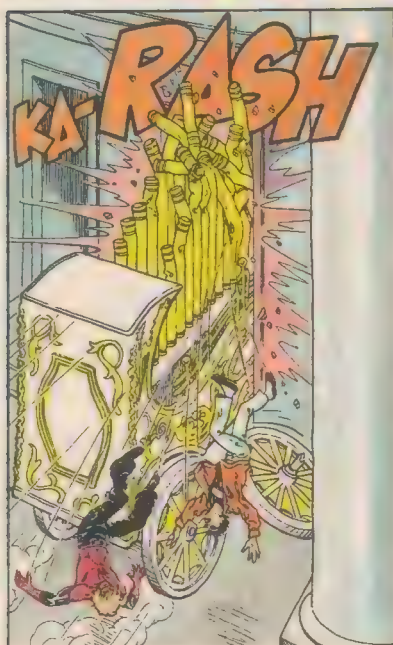
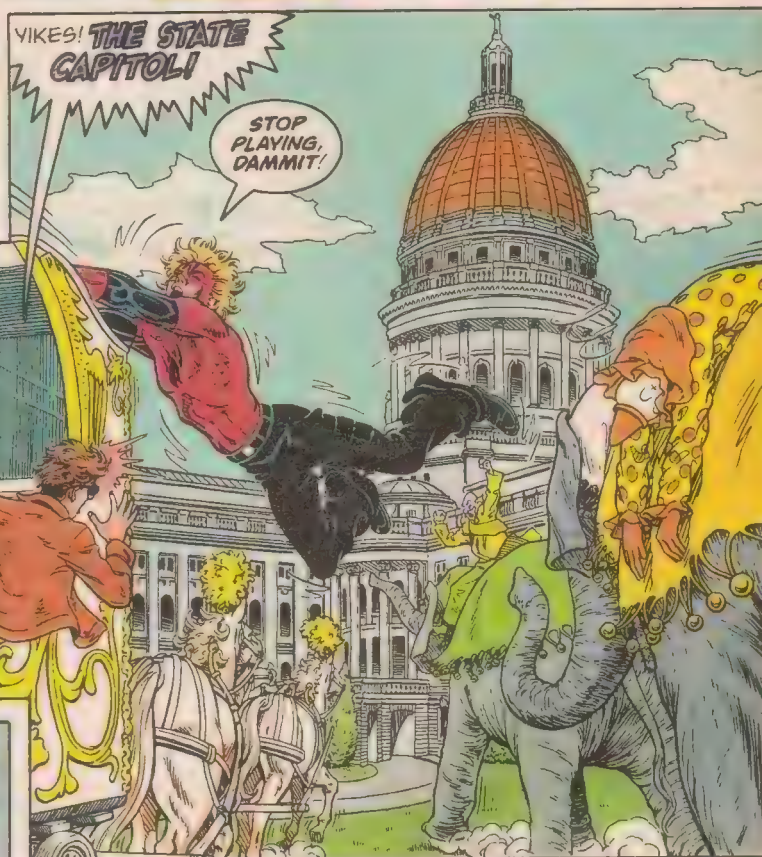












-FINIS-

Dear LARRY,:

C/O FIRST COMICS
435 N. LASALLE
CHICAGO IL
60610



Dear Larry:

I'm writing to express my regret that Sarah Beiting was harassed in the manner she describes in Badger #34, and to thank her for letting the rest of us know about it. What with what Jennifer Henderson mentioned in Nexus #39, it looks like there could be an unsavory pattern of abuse and hassle for female fans. Perhaps some sort of confidential survey of women readers could be undertaken to find out if this is a widespread problem. I don't know what could be done about it, but a sense of isolation and uncertainty never made it easier for anyone to do anything.

As First has specifically expressed an interest in women readers on a number of occasions, perhaps you'd be interested in sponsoring or organizing such a thing. I'd take it on, but with the nature of the problem, it would seem likely that there would be greater confidence if it were organized by a woman.

David Norris
Bristol, England

I'm all for surveys involving women, David, and I've got just the researcher for the job — Shere Hite.

Okay, okay, I know I should take this more seriously — and I want to take this opportunity to thank all the readers who took the time to write in supporting Sarah.

And now let's hear from some of our female readers:

Dear Larry:

Badger #34 had everything. Excellent writing. A great cover. Great interior art. Obnoxious Wisconsin bikers. Daisy. Badger talking to animals. A demon from another dimension. Ham in bunny slippers. Words in odd languages. Karate. Gore. A funny Clonezone story. But most important of all... an upcoming sequel.

Karen Williams
[Address withheld
by request]

Dear Larry:

Clonezone *must* continue. Think of the consequences were Mike denied this outlet: Sundra and Nexus

exchanging totally offensive ethnic slurs, Dave hosting Zombie-Bombie Theatre, the Flash ducking out of hotels without paying his bills... the mind reels! Yea, verily, 'tis a far, far better thing that the readers suffer the zings and terrors of the Zone backing up the Badger.

P.S. How about a team-up between the lizigator and R. Dangerfield?

Monica Sharp
[Address withheld
because I thought it was a
good idea at the time]

The above missive came on the back of a postcard featuring an illustration of a giant snow panda. And for those of you that don't know it, a certain artist with a fondness for pandas has been known to draw Clonezone stories from time to time...

Dear Mike and Rick:

Just thought I'd drop you a note to tell you how much I'm enjoying Badger. It is so refreshing to find a book that does not take itself too seriously. Badger has a

"Badger #34 had everything. Excellent writing. A great cover. Great interior art. Badger talking to animals. Ham in bunny slippers."

*"I tend to read my **Badgers** last when I indulge myself in my latest comic acquisitions, for much the same reason as I eat the crusts of sandwiches before devouring the marinated Emu filling."*

perfect blend of humor, kung-fu, humor, sorcery, humor, and humor.

I mean, Ham sacrificing paramecium? What great demon did he want to summon? A smurf? I also enjoyed the meaningful dialog between Count Kohler and his demonic horde:

Kohler: "You must kill, rape, pillage, etc., etc..."

Horde: "Well... all right!"

Great stuff! Badger is not a simplistic book, but it is not so complex that I can't figure out which characters are which and who did what to whom. With Badger, I can sit back, put on my old "Kung-Fu Fighting" single, and be totally entertained. Thanks for putting out a book that is worth the money.

To all the Clonezone haters: it could be worse; remember "Boomtown?"

Jerry Smith

[Address withheld for no particular reason]

You did a fairly good job of suppressing it yourself, Jerry — the name was Zoomtown.

Dear Larry:

Badger — to echo others, of obvious cultured taste and high standards — is a really refreshing book. I delight in the character(s) and revel in

the stories. I tend to read my Badgers last when I indulge myself in my latest comic acquisitions, for much the same reason as I eat the crusts of sandwiches before devouring the marinated Emu filling.

Having said that, I'd like to thank Mr. Baron for the consistently quirky "people" and off-beat plotlines, not only in Badger, but in all of his works that I've had the good fortune to paw through. Unfortunately, I didn't get to meet him when he was last down here (or up — depending on your spatial reference), so I wasn't able to gauge the mental state of the man responsible for all those stories that affect the mind like sherbet to the tongue (ffizzzz!).

And whether by artistic design or by sheer fluke, I appreciate the way that, for the most part, Norbert's martial exploits actually seem practical, properly portrayed, well-illustrated, and (dare I say?) realistic. That sort of thing hasn't been seen in comicdom in a loong time.

Mike Zeck's covers — like 'em (especially #34 — I couldn't quite believe it when I saw three of my sister's ex-boyfriends on the cover — Twilight Zone and gooseflesh stuff, that!)

Thanks First, for Badger, a constantly effervescent,

enjoyable, "light" comic.

Nigel Bell

[Address withheld because it's in bloody Australia and it's got too damn many words in it.]

*The martial arts are accurate because if they aren't, **Mike Baron** (a longtime student of martial arts) and **Roger Salick** (a black belt karate instructor and writer of some note) visit the offending artist and break all his fingers.*

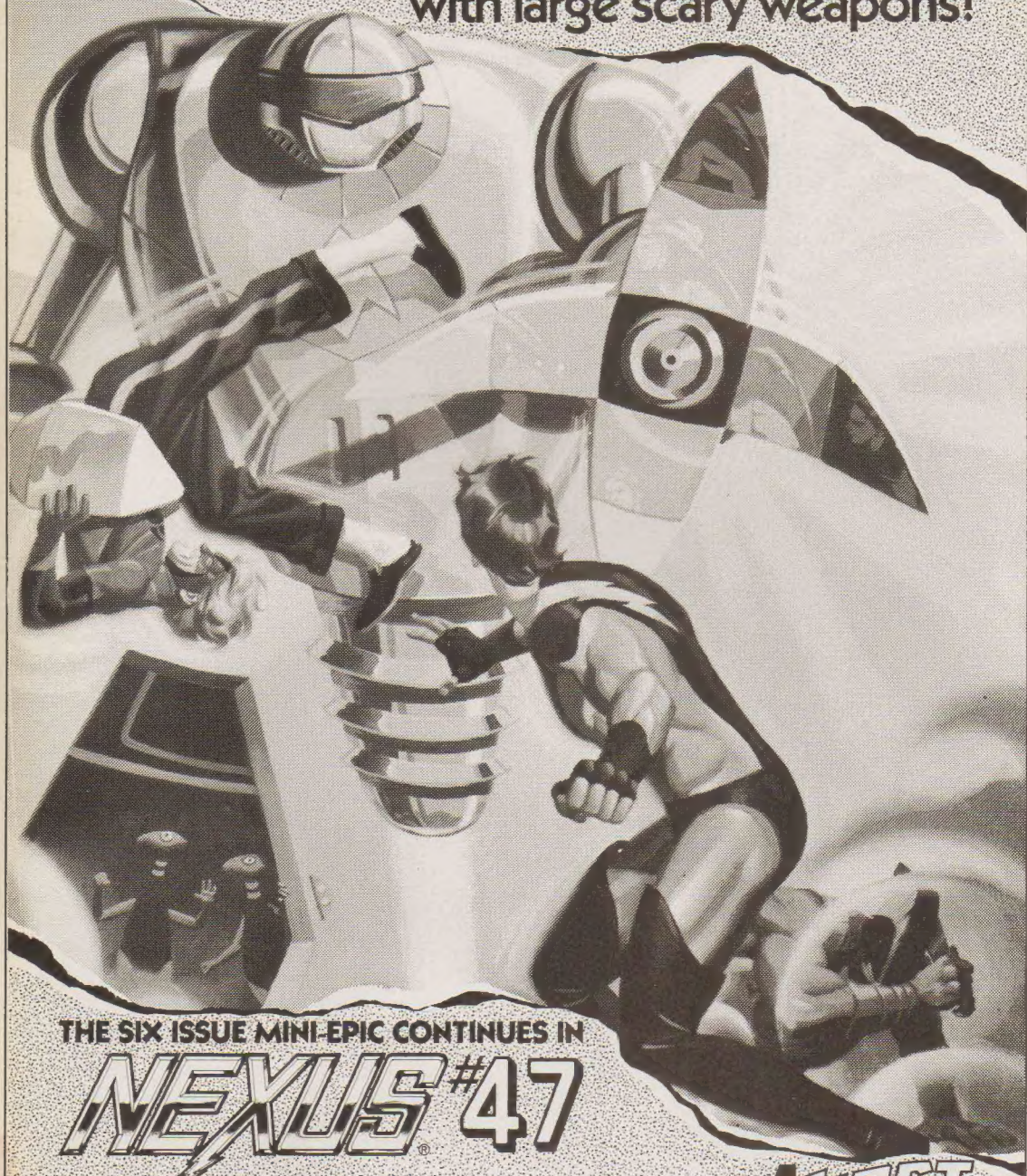


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—Rick Oliver

NEXUS AND BADGER

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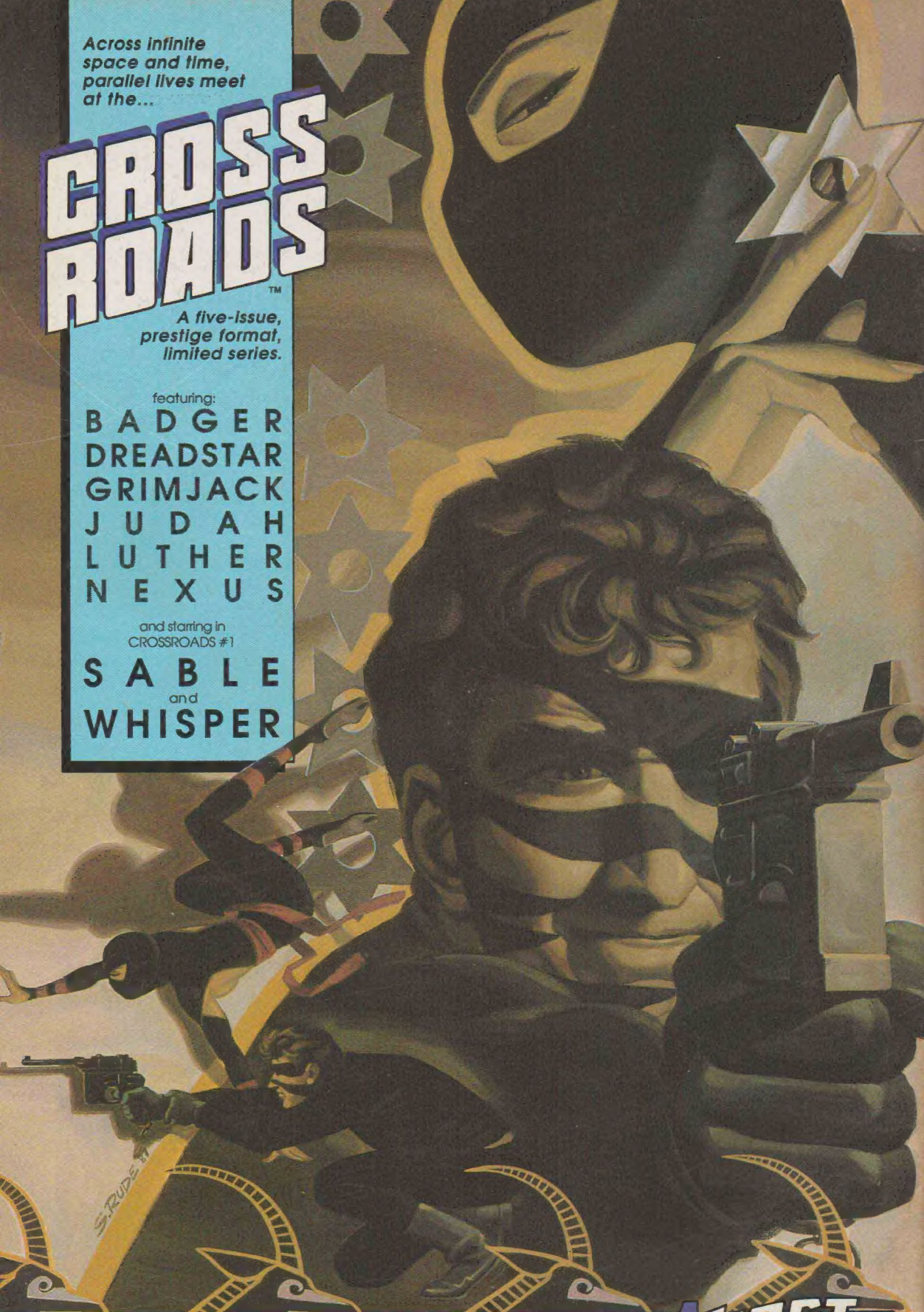
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